



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950

Executive Committee Meeting 5 - 7 April 2008 Novotel, London Heathrow

Present:	Ole Garpestad	LA2RR	President
	Don Beattie	G3BJ	Secretary
	Hans Blondeel Timmerman	PB2T	EC Member & ERC Chairman
	Panayot Danev	LZ1US	EC Member
	Tafa Diop	6W1KI	Vice President
	Hans H Ehlers	DF5UG	EC Member
	Michael Kastelic	OE1MCU	V/U/SHF Chairman
	Reinaldo Leandro	YV5AMH	President, IARU Region 2
	Nikola Perčin	9A5W	EC Member
	Max Raicha	5Z4MR	EC Member
	David Sumner	K1ZZ	International Secretary
	Andreas Thiemann	HB9JOE	Treasurer
	Colin Thomas	G3PSM	HF Chairman

1 Introduction and Welcome

The meeting started with a moment of silence in memory of Anne-Lise Gaardsø, Tom Atkins VE3CDM, and Henri van Klaveren, 3A2AH, who had become silent keys since the last meeting.

The Agenda was accepted as submitted.

2 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of April 2007 were approved.

Outstanding actions carried forward were:

- STARS coordinator for Eastern Europe **DF5UG**
- EU funding – see DF5UG report
- Sponsorship will be discussed under the paper on that subject
- It was noted that Paul Rinaldo will retire in June 2008. His successor has been identified and will be announced in due course.
- Some work has been done to define the handover responsibilities between outgoing Treasurer and new Treasurer, and HB9JOE agreed to add some specific handover principles and tasks and prepare a draft composite document. **HB9JOE**
- It was agreed to send a letter to R2/3 asking for support for the rule that participating Member Societies in ARDF and HST events should be up-to-date in payment of their dues

3 Finance Matters

The audited accounts for 2006 were noted.

The Treasurer agreed to investigate quickly the opportunities for gaining higher interest earnings from our significant cash deposits. **HB9JOE**

It was agreed that a paper should be prepared for the Cavtat Conference on the subject of Membership levels in Member Societies and the changes over the last 12 years, with a view to learning what initiatives have been developed to improve the attrition rate **G3BJ**

We will also encourage societies to validate their membership number submissions, as some appear to be out of date.

HB9JOE

K1ZZ commented that two problems were contributing to the fall-off in membership in MS:

- a) The general decline in interest in amateur radio
- b) The reduction in membership of Member Societies by active radio amateurs

He suggested that the two issues were related but may require separate approaches in their resolution

It was agreed that the financial provisions in the 2007 balance sheet were appropriate. It was agreed that all reference to Funds 1,2,3,4 should now be removed.

HB9JOE

A discussion then took place on paper EC08_24, which raised issues about the future focus and financing of Region 1.

9A5W felt that there was a need to look carefully at the costs levels in the Region.

OE1MCU felt that there was a danger of a downward spiral and that some of the savings should be used to pump-prime new initiatives to stimulate amateur radio.

PB2T agreed that we need to focus on our core activities and that there were opportunities to reduce cost.

LZ1US asked whether the Region 1 basis of assessing MS dues was appropriate, and suggested that it was, when compared to the approach in Regions 2 and 3. He felt that spend reduction should be focused in areas where there was either little activity, or little outcome.

He felt that there was opportunity to hold conferences and meetings in cheaper European countries.

6W1KI agreed that there was a need to reduce costs, but felt that we should evaluate the progress that had been made during the last nine years.

HB9JOE was in favour of a reduction in membership dues, and using the reserves to fund continuing activity.

DF5UG said that there was a need to reduce costs, and that this should be done in a focused way.

G3PSM agreed with the need to cut costs. He felt that there was a gap in understanding amongst society members/societies about what IARU does, and in the absence of that understanding, some were questioning the need for any funding to IARU.

YV5AMH commented that the financial pressure was a global issue for IARU. ARRL were carrying a big portion of the burden for funding IARU. However, he commented that Region 2 felt that changes in its own funding should be deferred until the future direction for IARU was clearer.

K1ZZ commented that stopping doing anything was a very difficult decision for any organisation. He supported the view that any cost cuts should be based on an understanding of the return on investment for each activity. Otherwise there was a danger of a downward spiral.

G3BJ suggested there were three basic approaches which could be suggested to the forthcoming Conference:

- a) Business as usual – no significant change in spend profile
- b) Reduce spend and MS dues to match
- c) Run down the reserves and reduce MS dues, but keeping broadly the current level of spend - but have a plan for what to do when the reserves run out

PB2T suggested that we need to evaluate the benefit of each spend line, and comment on each, and leave it to conference to determine the way ahead. G3BJ suggested that this should be associated with a range of budget options.

A discussion then took place on paper 24 to identify what might form a “business as usual” budget, a reduced budget for 2009 and a “deep cut” option. The outcome is shown in Appendix 1.

It was agreed that these three options, together with the implications for Region 1 of each option, should be presented to Committee C3 at Cavtat, prior to the budget being reviewed by Committee C2.

G3BJ

An appendix to the 3 year budget on project form is needed in order to identify what each project is meant to cover.

HB9JOE/LA2RR

Although the goal should be for the EC not to increase the budget in the three year period, the majority of the EC agreed to send a paper to the Cavtat Conference requesting that the changes must be more than 5 % before an approval from the MS is needed.

G3BJ

4 EC Reports

The President’s report was noted with the following observation: there are a number of MS Presidents who have relationships or work within their administrations. It would be worthwhile asking the EMC WG Chairman to consider how/if these people could support our strategic objectives in EMC.

G3BJ

Vice President: A letter to the S-G of ATU to be drafted for the President to send, inviting him to Cavtat.

6W1KI

Secretary: No issues

ERC Chairman: Noted that the new UBA President also works with the administration, although not in the field of communication.

DF5UG commented on his report. Most actions from previous EC’s had now been completed.

LZ1US: Little contact with Asian societies. Good progress on Emercom. Championship events in ARDF and HST are planned over the next year. Next HST event in Pordernone, Italy. Proposed and agreed that Z32TO, Oliver Tabakovski, should chair international jury at that event

5Z4MR – reported on Eastern Africa. It was confirmed that any society considering IARU membership should contact the Secretary to obtain application form. Burundi appeared interested.

TARC (Tanzania) has offered to hold an HST event. An ARAC may also be appropriate there.

ARAC - Dar Es Salaam: English: Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia

French: [Location TBA]: Madagascar, Reunion. Comoros, Mauritius.

9A5W: Progress is now being made on implementing the new E7 callsigns in BiH.

YV5AMH commented on the position in Region 2. He observed that the adverse conditions for amateur radio in some South American countries was the result of penal taxes on amateur radio equipment, which have not been disputed as a result of weak Member Societies in some countries.

K1ZZ reminded the meeting that involvement with ITU did not simply focus on the WRCs, but in the many meetings that took place in between WRCs and commented on the restructuring of some of the committees of relevance to IARU.

5 RSGB

The meeting then set aside its mainstream agenda to welcome Board members from RSGB. A presentation was used to introduce IARU and its objectives to those on the RSGB Board who were not fully up-to-speed with the Union and its activities. This was followed by a general discussion.

RSGB made the following points:

- IARU was seen as slow moving – particularly on the question of its new organisation
- IARU was not seen as particularly relevant by members of MS

A discussion followed about who the target audience should be for IARU messages. It was generally agreed that IARU should be influencing Member Societies, and asking for their help in projecting the role of IARU to their own members. IARU may help with the provision of material (e.g. the presentation used in this session). Perhaps also an article, which could be translated and published in MS magazines.

There is a need to establish the “value for money proposition” for IARU membership. IARU organisation is less important than value for money.

For RSGB, a presentation to one of the National Council meetings might be helpful. This will be followed up with RSGB. But the presentation needs to be backed up with a pack for the NC members to use in their patches.

G3BJ

RSGB raised the question of succession of the Eurocom Chairman – RSGB feels that the European Parliament is important to the Amateur Service.

Peter Kirby summarised developments at RSGB. RSGB is moving to Bedford (administration) and Bletchley Park (public face in an “RSGB Pavilion”). The Society has purchased a low-cost office in Bedford, and will move in late April. The QSL bureau has gone to an organisation called “NorCom services”.

In financial year 2007, RSGB grew its membership level. An independent marketing company has been engaged to develop new ways of promoting the Society.

RSGB asked which of the “issues” were of prime importance at the Regional level and which at the global level. The view was that in the eyes of some Member Societies, the global issues revolved around speed of action, processes for election of officers, dominance of ARRL. In the view of the EC, it would be more resourcing the organisation and the mapping of IARU onto its strategic targets. At the Regional level, EC succession and how we respond to financial pressures on Member Societies.

The need for a legal framework for IARU was discussed and an exchange of views took place on some of the issues involved.

Dave Sumner expressed the view that, given the challenges in Region 1 to interface with RTOs in the Region, Region 1, using volunteer resource, has done a remarkable job in aligning the views of RTOs in support of the amateur service objectives.

At the end of the session, a number of actions were agreed:

- a) Prepare "Value proposition for IARU"
- b) Prepare a pack for MS to use with their societies
- c) Prepare "standard article" on the IARU achievements and how it works
- d) Audience is the radio amateur, but through member societies – MS are our agents in the communication process
- e) Address the succession issues
- f) Bring the organisation project to some resolution

G3BJ/LA2RR

The meeting adjourned for dinner.

6 Working Group Reports

It was noted that almost all WG Chairmen had done some very good work in progressing the objectives of IARU. The EC expressed its thanks for all the work done, and the President will write to each WG Chairman.

There was a discussion about the requests for "informal" working group meetings at Friedrichshafen during the Conference year. It was noted that such meetings would be outside the terms of the Constitution, and therefore could only be held if all costs were paid by participants, and no costs were charged to Region 1

STARS (EC08_04a)

The Stars report was reviewed. Some analysis of the return on investment in the Pic-a-Star project in Syria was felt to be needed.

It was not clear who had the final decision on ADP course priorities and locations. OE1MCU questioned the overall pay-back from the STARS program.

It was agreed that Hans Welens/STARS WG should be asked to provide a report on each investment project showing the assessed return on investment. This should be available for the Cavtat Conference.

6W1KI/ON6WQ

The STARS WG should understand that future projects will also require a full assessment of ROI after the event.

It was also noted that the STARS report covered almost exclusively Africa. The STARS WG should consider what opportunities existed elsewhere in the Region

6W1KI

HST (EC08_04b)

It was noted that the HST WG Chairman may not always need to visit the location of Championship events prior to the event. Such a visit should be the exception.

It was agreed that Oliver Tabakovski should be Chairman of the Jury of the Region 1 Championship in Pordenone.

RRWG (ERC08_04c)

The good work being done in this WG was noted. It was also noted that the WG really comprised one person (G3PJT) and that possibly in the future it may be appropriate to consider the terminology used in such activities in Region 1.

The matter of a single European question pool for amateur examinations was considered, and it was felt that G3PJT should be encouraged to see if ERO can take steps to work towards a single question pool for relevant countries. It would be helpful if this pool could be extended to other countries.

PB2T/LA2RR/G3PJT

BEACONS (EC08_04d)

The report was noted. It was noted that there was a growth in QRPP beacons outside the overall framework policy.

It was agreed that the question of beacons below 14 MHz should be raised with Regions 2 and 3 to seek support for the Region 1 policy. Following this, there should be a proposal to amend AC resolution 98-2 to give effect to the current Region 1 policy on a global basis.

G3PSM/G3USF

EMC (EC08_04e)

The report was noted.

There was a general view that the work recommencing in ETSI/CENELEC may require more than “monitoring” and that previous track record suggested that pro-active involvement in steering the agenda was needed. Otherwise there seems a possibility of an ETSI/CENELEC “Harmonised Standard” which would be adopted by the EU, and could adversely affect the outcome of any discussions in CISPR. Similarly the work of ETSI PLT needs to be closely monitored.

CISPR – John Pink is now representing RSGB in CISPR.

The basis of Region 1 representation in CISPR, as suggested by the WG Chairman, needs clarification.

EUROCOM (EC08_04f)

The proposal to issue a special calendar to MEPs was considered and it was agreed to allow half of the cost as an exceptional cost, with the rest coming from the EUROCOM budget.

It was pointed out that any EUROCOM WG meeting at Friedrichshafen in 2008 would need to be at zero cost to the Region.

It was noted that a number of spectrum documents are circulated to MS. Other people within IARU probably need to know about these. Copies should go to ERC Chairman and RRWG.

PB2T/ON4WF

There was a potential issue of “who does what” between EUROCOM and RRWG, EMC and ERC. It was therefore important that any matters relating to issues which cross the remits of more than one committee should be shared with the Chairmen of those committee(s)

It was noted that ON4WF had submitted a paper proposing to the Cavtat Conference a triennial EU parliament exhibition. It was agreed that ON4WF should be asked to include in his paper:

- a) The total costs of the 2007 exhibition
- b) The anticipated total costs of the 2010 exhibition
- c) An objective assessment of the benefits of the 2007 exhibition

ARSPEX (EC08_04g)

The report was noted. The report included an invitation for IARU Region 1 to make a further contribution to the balance of the cost of installing amateur radio antennas on the Columbus space lab. IARU had already made a contribution of € 2,000 in 2007. A similar request had also been received from UBA which had, so far, covered the remaining cost for the antenna. It was agreed that a further CHF 3,000 should be made available to UBA to help offset their outstanding costs relating to the antenna costs.

IPHA (EC08_04h)

OD5RI was congratulated on beginning to make progress on IPHA matters

IARU-MS (EC08_04j)

The excellent report from IARU-MS was noted.

Emercomms (EC08_04k)

The Emercomms report was noted. It was also noted that GAREC is not an IARU event, although attended by Member Societies and IARU Emercomm coordinators. It was felt that some further consideration may need to be given to what is/is not IARU sponsored in the area of Emercomm activities.

In respect of DV05_C 33 recommendation, OH1VR has asked to defer implementation until 2010. It was agreed that OH1VR should be asked to incorporate this proposal in his report to the Cavtat Conference. However, the EC was of the view that some work should be started in advance of the conference on this recommendation.

LZ1US/LA2RR

GAREC 2008 is being organised in Friedrichshafen 26/27 June.

The proposal for creating a WG to seek financial support for Region 1 using SETs as a tool was noted. OH1VR will present such a proposal to Conference.

It was noted that OH1VR had also prepared a paper for Cavtat relating to the /D suffix.

The positioning of the paper needs to reflect the fact that it is not a Region 1 EC paper, but comes from the Emercom Coordinator.

LZ1US

It was noted that LZ1US in his report suggested that OH1VR was asking that contest organisers should be asked to build into their contest rules, the need to avoid emergency communications frequencies during contests. The Chairman of the HF Committee was asked to consider this proposal.

G3PSM

ARDF

The EC expressed concerns at the list of outstanding issues in the ARDF Working Group. The new part B of the rules presented to the EC (v2.8) did not appear to match the decisions at the most recent ARDF WG meeting. The rules need to be regularised by the Chairman as soon as possible and then published on the Region 1 ARDF Website without further delay.

It was observed that the Region 1 ARDF website had not been updated for nearly three years.

The ToR for the ARDF WG also need to be updated. The EC will include this in a Conference paper handling updates to the ToR for all WGs

Changes to Part A of the ARDF rules, as approved by the EC in 2006, will be submitted to the Cavtat Conference by the EC.

7 Member Society Issues (EC08_15)

Bosnia & Herzegovina

It was noted that some progress had been made in forming an umbrella society for BiH, and it was hoped that ARABiH would confirm its participation in this before too long. It was noted that the question of callsigns for BiH had now been resolved.

Montenegro

A further application pro-forma for IARU membership has been sent to Montenegro. It was unlikely that the national society will join IARU before Cavtat, and so the EC determined that it should be offered the opportunity to send an observer to the Cavtat Conference

G3BJ

Tunisia

No further progress was reported in obtaining a copy of the Constitution of CAST

Kazakhstan

No application had been received from either of the two societies known to be interested in applying for IARU membership.

Albania

It was agreed that ON6WQ should be asked to consider an ADP in Albania. **LA2RR**

Mongolia

It was noted that MRSF (the IARU recognised society for Mongolia) had formally informed IARU that it had been renamed MARS (Mongolian Amateur Radio Society). It has provided a new constitution, list of officers, government certificate etc. It was agreed that MARS should assume the role of IARU recognised society for Mongolia. **G3BJ**

South Africa

The President reported on an invitation from SARL (South Africa) to attend their AGM in April. Due to the short notice and other commitments, the President was unable to attend.

8 Cavtat Conference

The Secretary summarised the status. Overall preparations were well in hand. The administrative structure was defined and ready to implement. So far, some 70 papers had been received

It was agreed that VIP invitations urgently needed to be issued.

The requests for financial support to attend the conference were reviewed and an approach agreed.

The Conference programme was agreed.

The list of EC papers was reviewed. It was suggested that the timescales for submission of Conference papers is unnecessarily long, and in today's fast-moving world, the timescales might be collapsed. A Conference paper from the EC to be prepared. **G3BJ**

The financial report to Conference will be prepared by end-April. **HB9JOE**

Work with HRS was proceeding well, and plans for the Office staffing were nearing finalisation.

It should be considered by the EC how to communicate to Member Societies the implications to the Region 1 finances and thus to the MS fee of selecting high class and thus expensive venues for the future Region 1 Conferences.

9 IARU Organisation Project

There has been limited progress – G3BJ outlined the next steps planned, which should result in a proposal being made to the AC in June.

10 Spectrum Defence Fund

Paper EC08_18 was approved as a paper for the Cavtat Conference

11 Standing Recommendations

The proposed restructuring of the Standing recommendations was approved with minor changes, and will be submitted to Conference for approval. It will then be published on the web

12 IARU Action Plan for development of support for amateur frequency allocations

The updated action plan was reviewed and the next steps noted. An ARAC in Qatar was not yet confirmed. Another is planned for Congo in May/June 2008. An ADP is envisaged for Tanzania.

13 Friedrichshafen (EC08_16)

Some societies appeared to be experiencing difficulties in attending FHN because of stand costs. The paper proposed IARU hosting an umbrella stand for those societies who cannot afford to attend in their own right. It was felt that this was a separate matter from the strategy for an IARU presence at FHN. The meeting agreed that MS should be sounded out on whether there was value in the proposal. But the prime IARU presence and strategy for FHN should be to interact with the Boards of Member Societies to build closer understanding of, and support for, IARU. To this end, the use of a private room for these discussions was deemed to be appropriate.

14 Calendar of Events

Agreed that the following would attend events as indicated below:

ITU Telecom Africa – 12-15 May 2008	PB2T and LA2RR
AC Meeting – 22-24 June	LA2RR, G3BJ and PB2T
FHN 25-27 June	LA2RR, PB2T, G3BJ, 6W1KI, DF5UG (travel only)
HST Championship Pordenone 23-27 April	LZ1US and 9A5W
Youth ARDF Championship Moldova 13-16 June	LZ1US
ARDF World Championship Korea – September	Given the other R1 attendees who will be there at their own expense (LA2RR and LZ1US), the EC saw no reason to cover costs of any other person to Korea
GAREC 24-25 June	OH1VR, LZ1US (cost to be shared with BFRA)
4U1ITU AGM (2009)	PB2T (if other IARU commitments align)

15 IARU Region 1 Web

Nik presented the paper prepared by the working group. The paper proposed:

- a) Webmaster role
- b) Content management system
- c) "Gatekeeper" – for relevance and English
- d) The budget was not presented, but in discussions some felt it might be amount to CHF 30,000 initially and ongoing costs of about CHF 200 pa
- e) Direct input of content from authorised members of the EC and WG Chairmen
- f) Roles needed are Project Manager, Gatekeeper, Webmaster

It was agreed that work should be commenced to identify these people, and to begin the development of the new site.

However, an important first step is to define the **objectives** for the website:

- To provide top level information on amateur radio for the casual browser
- To redirect the casual browser to the national society of his country
- To provide high level information on IARU and IARU region 1
- To provide an in-depth forum of information exchange and reference for MS and WGs

Nikola Percin, 9A5W, will be project manager with G3BJ, OE1MCU and PB2T as the implementation team.

The appointment of a gatekeeper remains an open issue.

The first step to detail the budget – this will be prepared by the project team

It was agreed that we should target an in-depth discussion with EC/WG Chairmen at the Cavtat Conference. Tafa Diop suggested that funding might be taken from the Development Fund as it directly underpinned development of MS.

An implementation plan to be developed by mid-May. The actual changeover should not be done until after the Cavtat Conference. **9A5W**

17 AC Matters (EC08_21)

The following issues were discussed:

IARU MS Coordinator – possibly this might be combined with one of the Regional roles.

DF5UG will discuss with a possible candidate in Region 1

DF5UG

It was noted that IARU was seeking additions to its pool of technical experts.

PB2T will consider further.

AC Policies and Resolutions: The current list was reviewed. It was felt that there was an emerging issue about QSL bureaux. Region 1 will present a paper to the AC as a basis for discussion.

G3BJ

18 Operating Standards (EC08_25)

G3BJ introduced the paper and explained some of the background and tabled a short-form version of a possible IARU high level policy statement.

It was agreed that the EC will submit a paper with a high-level statement recommendation to the Cavtat Conference and that and that the three page summarised policy document as well as the ON4UN book should be cross referenced.

G3BJ

It was also agreed that this high-level statement was appropriate for submission to the AC for consideration in June, with the three page summarised policy document and the ON4UN book cross referenced.

Publication of the book was an issue because of the numerous language variants required. It was felt that perhaps a .pdf version of the book could be lodged on the IARU website as “open source” and available for member societies to publish and translate as they wish. A supporting workshop will be scheduled for Cavtat.