

Record of the GB3HV Repeater Group Formation Meeting held on 29 Apr 2025

Present:

G8GTZ	Noel Matthews
G8GKQ	Dave Crump
G8CKN	Roy Powers
G8LES	Mike Sanders
G6IGA	Tom Grady
G8YTZ	Justin Cockett
G4XAT	Gareth Evans
G0MJW	Mike Willis
G4FKK	Martin Charman (Item 7 only)

Item 1: Apologies for Absence

G3VZV	Graham Shirville
G1HBD	Tony Hornby

Item 2: Introduction

Dave described how the old GB3HV site at Farnham had been lost 4 years ago, and the opportunity had been taken to perform a technical upgrade, with Noel leading on the hardware, and Dave leading on the software for the controller (now the BATC Digital ATV Repeater Controller).

Roy had kindly offered to host GB3HV at his QTH near Alton (IO91LD) and this meeting had been called to formally set up the group to validate and renew the insurance and to start raising funds for running costs.

Details of the new GB3HV had been published on the GB3HV Wiki Page
<https://wiki.batc.org.uk/GB3HV>.

Item 3: Adoption of Constitution

Roy had proposed a constitution for the group, which after suggested amendments from Dave and Mike (G8LES) had been published on the GB3HV Wiki:
https://wiki.batc.org.uk/images/4/40/20250423_GB3HV_REPEATER_GROUP_CONSTITUTION.pdf

Dave proposed, and Mike (G8LES) seconded, that the Constitution be adopted. Those present unanimously approved its adoption.

Item 4: Approval of Site Agreement

A site agreement for the hosting of GB3HV had been proposed between the group and Roy and his wife. This set out each side's responsibilities for the repeater.
https://wiki.batc.org.uk/images/e/e0/20250423_GB3HV_Site_Agreement.pdf. Roy proposed, and Dave seconded, that the site agreement be formally approved. Those present unanimously agreed its approval.

Item 5: Election of the Committee

Volunteers were sought for position on the GB3HV Group Committee. The following appointments were proposed:

Chairman: G8LES
Secretary: G8GKQ
Treasurer: G8YTZ

G8CKN would also be a Committee member as the Repeater Keeper / Licence Holder.

There were no further volunteers for the Committee and all present approved the appointments.

It was confirmed that there was no requirement for the Treasurer to hold a separate Bank Account for the GB3HV funds; he should just keep the funds safe and recorded.

Item 6: Setting of Subscriptions

Subscriptions would be required to offset the power costs of GB3HV. No other running costs were envisaged, as Roy was providing the internet connectivity at no charge. The latest estimate of power consumption was:

Overnight (10.5 hours)	90W
Receive (13.5 hours)	122W
Transmit (? hours)	280W

With no transmit, that is 2.592 kWh per day = 70p at £0.27 per unit. On a busy day with transmit for 50% of the time, that could go up to 3.658 kWh = £1.00 per day.

So annual costs in the range £255 to £365. It was hoped to be able to reduce the power consumption (particularly during the overnight period) but the current priority was to get GB3HV on the air.

Funds carried over from the old GB3HV were £139. It was recognised that a balance had to be struck between deterring new members by a too high subscription whilst still maintaining adequate funds for the repeater. Dave proposed a subscription of £20 per year (seconded by Mike G8LES) and all present approved that figure.

A review would be conducted in 6 months' time (late October) to decide whether the £20 subscription was sustainable, or whether the facilities (receivers), operating hours or the subscription needed adjustment. Another possibility was that some fund-raising activities should be organised.

Justin would notify members of how to pay their subscriptions (which would be due before the end of May).

Item 7: AOB

Roy gave an overview of the latest state of GB3HV. The mast was currently down to allow some repairs on the rotator which had suffered water damage. The 70 cm and 23 cm receive chains needed to be proved, and the analogue display Raspberry Pi and EasyCap needed some maintenance.

There was discussion on the possible of the use of Mini-PCs to provide some of the repeater functions in the future.

Item 8: Date of Next Meeting

The Secretary would call the next meeting for approximately 2 months' time.

An in-person gathering of Members was suggested at the BATC Stand at the McMichael Rally in Reading at 11:30 am on Sunday 13 July.

Dave Crump
G8GKQ
Secretary