

Appendix 1 – The specific concerns of The Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network to the draft newsletter.

RAYNET Unity

The Board needs to clarify its intentions as the second paragraph of Section 3 Raynet (RAYNET) as it appears to contradict itself:

The policy of the RSGB Board ... has been to "look to eventual unity of RAYNET activities", under the direction of the Network.

However the middle sentence of this same paragraph states that:

'There are groups who wish to remain as RSGB Groups and object to any form of Network affiliation.'

The last paragraph acknowledges this, but introduces a new caveat to RSGB Board policy given earlier.

*'The role of the Public Service Board member is to work towards the eventual unity but also to provide support **as long as some groups wish to remain independent of the Network.**'*

If these statements are indeed RSGB policy, it must therefore follow that RSGB Board has no genuine intention of RAYNET unity. We find this most disturbing.

(For information it will come as no surprise that there are also some Network groups that will never affiliate to RSGB.)

The most limiting resource of either organisation is volunteer time and energy. We completely endorse the newsletter's statement that RAYNET *is* (our emphasis) the public face of amateur radio. Why then after 15 years are we both wasting such a scarce resource in duplicating systems and exchange time consuming correspondence on things which are not actually advancing the cause of RAYNET? We wish to provide the public face of amateur radio which

the RSGB can be proud of.

The time must surely have come when one organisation or the other must recognise the collective good of amateur radio must take precedence over a minority view held by its membership? This is the very difficult role of leadership in a democracy.

We are harkened that RSGB has publicly stated in this newsletter that it sees the Network as ultimate director of RAYNET. We feel that this recognises our:

1. democratic structure
2. extensive website including online membership facilities

3. resilient organisation
4. support structure of six specialist volunteer teams
5. wide-ranging membership
6. registered charity
7. widespread geographic presence in the country
8. well established liaison at local and at national levels with the principal User Services
9. 1500+ members and steadily growing
10. sound financial position
11. 65% of the total number of UK RAYNET groups (c/f RSGB 32%)
12. Provision of RAYNET Supplies, including workwear and other equipment.

1. an electronic membership registration system which produces quality photo ID cards
2. an accurate database of membership with in-depth history
3. provision of Forums
4. 80m news net
5. RAY~Link - our members' quarterly colour magazine
6. the on-line Events Diary, for the co-ordination of all RAYNET activities
7. 61% of Talk Through permits issued by the Network
8. a national RAYNET callout scheme, with a single telephone point of contact
9. we lead on zone meetings which ensure regional liaison between all RAYNET groups regardless of affiliation
10. provide Personal Accident Insurance (PAI) for all members, as well as Public and Employer Liability policies
11. Company Limited by guarantee (the same legal form as the RSGB)

At our presentation we wish to highlight some of the governance issues that you would face with the proposed Public Services Committee. Superficially this looks like a resurrection of the old RSGB Raynet Committee. Much appears to have been forgotten over the 13 years of tensions between RSGB Council, the RAYNET membership and the RSGB Raynet Committee from 1980 to 1993. The type of structure proposed is virtually identical to that of the past. It didn't work then and in our view won't work now.

We also want to show you a possible way forward and hopefully start a dialogue about how to address the concerns of all stakeholders. We would rather see a simple solution, rather than one involving yet more committees.

Lack of consultation and liaison

The underlying principle of the MoU is that there should be mutual liaison. A copy of the MoU is given in Appendix 2.

The seven point plan set out in the "stop press" section of the newsletter was not discussed prior to its presentation at the last RSGB Board meeting. If circulated to a wider audience, it would then appear that the RSGB Board was

making unilateral decisions on RAYNET without consulting the Network as required by MoU (3.1)

Community Events

We wish to draw RSGB Board members attention to MoU (4.3) "*The RSGB shall liaise with the Network ... (about) changes in the amateur radio licence.*" There has been no such formal liaison over community radio as described in the draft newsletter.

Furthermore MoU (3.1) states that "*The RSGB recognises the Network as the principal organisation ... who provide voluntary radio communications in support of the activities of the User Services and ... in supporting community events.*" Therefore the MoU already encompasses Community Events, and gives the lead of this area to the Network. Consequently role 2 of the Public Services Committee becomes void.

Stop Press item 2 states that the RSGB will discuss with OfCom "*...a further broadening of the definition of User Services.*" (to include community groups – ie non-profit organisations). This proposal appears to be at variance with the requirements of the MoU (4.3).

ID Badge (Stop Press 5)

We welcome the RSGB Board's public expression of interest in the Network supplying an ID badge to members of RSGB affiliated RAYNET groups after four years of inter-company discussions. However the statement that we have agreed to do it is somewhat premature. We see the next step as being one of due diligence, followed by negotiations over procedures, price, timings and other matters before ultimately signing a contract before delivering the first ID card. This might take a while given the how long it has taken to get to this stage.

Manual (Stop Press 6)

The Network is working on a major revision to the Manual. It is being divided into general RAYNET operating procedures and other generic information for individual members. This section will be made available to all RAYNET members through RAYNET Supplies (a team of the Network).

Part 2 will contain Network specific administration policies and procedures. It too will be made available to all RAYNET members.