RAYNET-UK – Annual General Meeting 2025

Held: Sunday 26 October 2025 at 14:00 hrs

Venue: CSSC Sports & Leisure, Filton Avenue, Horfield, Bristol BS7 0AT and online via Microsoft Teams

Registered Company No.: 02771954 (England & Wales)

Charity Nos.: 1047725 (England & Wales), SC046184 (Scotland)

Chair: Cathy Clark G1GQJ

Minute Secretary: Ian Jones G4BDS

1 – Notice of Meeting

Formal notice of the Annual General Meeting was issued on 29 September 2025 under the Companies Act 2006 and the Articles of Association.
Members were reminded of their rights to attend, speak, vote, or appoint a proxy.

The Chair opened the meeting at 14:00 hrs, welcoming those present in Bristol and the twenty-four members joining online.
A quorum being present, the meeting was declared duly constituted.

2 – Attendance and Apologies

In the Room

M6TNH Richard MacDougall-Smith	M7LHA Hannah Arnold	MW7GBJ Glenda Britten-Jones
M9LAG Liam Guy	M3XIR Graeme Williamson	2E0DAY Sue Darby
2E0ZST Steve Harris	2W0ORH Owen Hopkin	G0DUB Greg Mossop
G1CXE John Palmer	G1ECE Brian Clark	G1GQJ Cathy Clark
G3YLS Gill Whitehead	G3ZKI Alan Williams	G4BDS Ian Jones
G4BWR Mark Hildich	G4KIL Philip Williams	G4SNU Ron Hardie
G4TAH Ian Conibear	G8GQJ Ray Clark	G8OQG Pete Jobbins
G8WOX Tony Hartland	M0DXV Mike Whitehead	M0GXB George Bichard
M0LSA Lisa Mossop	M0MFS Drew Brook	M0VBD Bob Darby
MW0RUH Dave Thomas	MW1WYN Wyn Britten-Jones	

Apologies

M8IFG Andy Evans	M9MJR Mike Rawlins	MM0NKK Nick Apostolakis
2E0VCJ Vivian Reid	G0ERI Julian Shaw	GW6MLI David Morgan
G1FMU Keith Harris	G1NSG Stuart Goodwin	G3YQO Don Kirkwood
G3ZHX Ian Somers	G4KUJ Trevor Groves	G7KLZ Jon Fowler
G8EEY Mike Mobbs	G8HHV Bill Oscroft	G8ITB Richard Perzyna

G8KBV Dave Baxter	G8XDV Steve Huyton	M0IWI Dave Gilbertson
M0LXS Connor Claxton	M0ODE Sherry Hawkins	M0RHS Richard Hawkins
M0SXM Steve Morris	M0WBA Andy Webb	M1EKM Neal Harden

3 – Minutes of the Previous AGM (2024)

The minutes of the AGM held on 26 October 2024 at Tandragee Golf Club, Northern Ireland, had been circulated in advance.
No amendments were raised.

Proposed: M9LAG **Seconded**: G4BDS **Decision**: Approved unanimously.

4 – Trustees' and Chair's Report (2024–25)

The Chair presented the Trustees' and Chair's Report for the year ending 31 March 2025, combining the written submissions of the Trustees with her oral remarks.

RAYNET-UK attended the Blackpool Rally, National Hamfest, and RSGB Convention at Kents Hill, Milton Keynes, again within the Special Interest Group area led by Philip Hosey MI0MSO. Attendance was strong, visitor numbers increased, and membership enquiries rose significantly. These events remained valuable opportunities to demonstrate RAYNET's role within the amateur radio and emergency communications communities.

RAYNET-UK also participated in the Emergency Services Show at the NEC in September 2025, further strengthening engagement with voluntary-sector and emergency-planning partners. Members who supported the stand were encouraged to submit material for Checkpoint.

Checkpoint had not been published since July 2025 because of a shortage of submissions. The Chair stressed that the magazine depends entirely on voluntary contributions and that the quarterly publication relies on regular input from Groups. The next edition is planned for December 2025.

The Committee of Management met monthly online to oversee policy and operations. Work included revising the Memorandum of Understanding with the British Red Cross, developing a skills survey, and reviewing the Privacy Policy in light of recent legislation, alongside procedural updates coordinated by the Operations Support Team under Liam Guy. Progress also began on a new edition of the RAYNET Manual. The Chair thanked Lisa M0LSA for continuing as Treasurer and welcomed Ian Jones G4BDS as Minute Secretary.

Website Redevelopment

A complete rewrite of the public area of the RAYNET-UK website was identified as a significant priority. The existing site, though functional, required a comprehensive update to ensure accuracy and accessibility for members and potential users of the Services. The site is the primary reference for external organisations and must present a professional image aligned with national standards.

The Committee of Management will manage redevelopment with consultation across Groups and Zones. The new site will highlight national coverage, services, training and operational readiness, and improve access to governance and

policy documents. Work will begin during the winter once the structure and content plan are approved.

Zonal Coordinators

The Chair outlined the role and expectations of Zonal Coordinators (ZCs) and invited experienced members to consider nomination. Vacancies remain in Zones 1, 2, 3 and 5. Tony Hartland G8WOX was welcomed as ZC9 for the Midlands, succeeding Jason Bull, who was thanked for his service. ZCs link local Groups with the Committee of Management, provide support when required, and convene at least one zonal meeting each year. They serve a three-year term, may seek re-election, and also act as trustees and directors of the charity.

Licensing and Systems

Microsoft will end free E1 licences for non-profits in January 2026. RAYNET-UK has registered as a Google Non-Profit organisation as an interim measure; alternative platforms were found financially unviable. The Committee will manage the transition to maintain continuity of communications.
Conclusion
The Chair reflected on RAYNET's importance in supporting the User Services during emergencies and major incidents, thanking all members for their commitment and professionalism throughout the year and encouraging Groups to maintain readiness and recruit new members.

Decision: The Trustees' and Chair's Report was adopted unanimously.

5 – Awards and Recognitions

The Chair announced the national awards for 2025 and read summaries of the citations. (The full citations can be read in the previously circulated Chair's Report.)

The Brian Tyndall Shield 2025 was awarded to **Ian Moffatt G0OZS** of East Suffolk RAYNET in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Long Distance Walk event. In the months preceding the operation, he coordinated comprehensive RF coverage tests, arranged site visits, prepared antennas and repeater equipment, and ensured all volunteers received clear deployment instructions. During the event, he managed deliberate interference calmly and professionally, maintaining communications throughout and earning praise from the organisers for the quality and reliability of RAYNET's support.

The RAYNET Cup 2025 was awarded to **Jason Moore M9XTA (2E0XTA)** of Essex RAYNET for sustained innovation and development work within his county. He led several technical projects, including enhancing APRS systems, integrating cross-band repeater networks with LTE connectivity, and strengthening relationships with User Services and voluntary partners. His work was regarded as forward-thinking and instrumental in modernising RAYNET's operational capability.

The membership warmly congratulated both recipients, and their achievements were recorded with appreciation.

6 – Roll of Honour – Long-Service Certificates 2025

The Chair presented certificates recognising continuous membership ranging from fifteen to fifty-five years, highlighting that these awards reflect decades of dedicated service to RAYNET and the voluntary provision of emergency communications across the United Kingdom. She described them as *"a small token of appreciation for loyalty and hard work"* and as a reflection of the organisation's enduring volunteer spirit.

Certificates were presented in person to those attending the meeting, with others to be forwarded to their respective Group Controllers for local presentation. The Chair confirmed that the full Roll of Honour would also appear in the next issue of *Checkpoint*.

She noted that in 2025 there were three certificates for over fifty years' service — **Pauline Bland G8MBK**, **Chris Hall G4AJA**, and **John Bewley G1SQI** — together with two special awards marking fifty-five years of continuous membership to **Ron Payne G4AWA** and **Doug Love G8BBI** of South Sussex RAYNET.

Proceeding through each service category, the Chair read out the complete list of recipients, whose contributions spanned fifteen to fifty-five years and represented Groups from every part of the country. She remarked that **Gloucestershire RAYNET** achieved the highest number of recipients this year, with six certificates, followed by **Glasgow and Clyde**, **Derbyshire**, **Cleveland**, and **Bassetlaw**, each with four.

She recounted attending the **Derbyshire RAYNET AGM** earlier in March to personally present four of their certificates, including one to **Derek Harrison**, whom she described as *"probably the longest-serving Group Controller I can remember."* She reflected that the occasion was *"a lovely gesture"* and a reminder of the camaraderie that defines RAYNET.

In closing, the Chair offered heartfelt thanks to every award recipient for their dedication and professionalism, noting that these many decades of voluntary service continue to underpin RAYNET's reputation for reliability and resilience in supporting the User Services nationwide.

7 – Financial Report

The Treasurer's Report and accompanying balance sheet were presented by **Lisa M0LSA**, showing that RAYNET-UK continued to operate within budget and maintained sufficient reserves to satisfy Charity Commission guidance that charities should hold funds equivalent to at least twelve months' operating costs.

The Chair invited members to ask any questions or comments regarding the financial statements. None were raised concerning accuracy or presentation. The report was therefore accepted as presented.

Phil G8KLC asked whether the charity currently claims Gift Aid on membership subscriptions. The Chair explained that Gift Aid had previously been applied only to legitimate trustee expenses when physical meetings were held. Since the move to online meetings, there have been no eligible expense claims, so Gift Aid has not been used in recent years. **Lisa M0LSA** noted that to qualify for Gift Aid on membership fees, HMRC requires that the payment confer no personal benefit, and that while the charity could review eligibility, it was unlikely that current subscriptions would meet that strict definition.

Phil G8KLC further asked if Gift Aid might be available on membership cards or other aspects of the subscription, to which Lisa replied that the Committee would verify this with HMRC guidance and report back.

Questions were also raised on whether RAYNET-UK could join existing Blue Light Card schemes for volunteers. **Gill G3YLS** confirmed she had been in discussion with the scheme's administrators. That approval was close, pending publication of an updated Memorandum of Understanding with the British Red Cross on the RAYNET-UK website. Once that document was publicly visible, formal acceptance into the scheme was expected.

Members then returned to the subject of software licensing. **Kevin M7KAG** reported that Microsoft currently offers a 75 per cent discount on non-profit licences, but even with that reduction, the cost would approximately double the existing membership subscription. The Chair and **Lisa M0LSA** confirmed that each licence under Microsoft's F1 plan would cost around £1.54 per month, and that standard commercial equivalents were typically £4.20 to £6 per month. Although the discount was generous, it remained financially unsustainable for an organisation of RAYNET-UK's size.

After discussion, members agreed that it was prudent to maintain the current approach: continuing paid licenses for Committee and team leaders while exploring migration to Google Non-Profit services as a longer-term, lower-cost alternative.

No other matters were raised.

Proposed: G4BDS **Seconded**: G8GQJ **Decision**: Adopted unanimously.

8 – Open Forum

Following the completion of formal business, the Chair opened the floor for general discussion.

David Taylor, M0VDT of the Sutton Group, began by congratulating **Tony Hartland, G8WOX**, on his appointment as Zonal Coordinator 9 and expressed appreciation to Jason Bull for his prior service. He asked whose responsibility it was to update the Companies House and Charity Commission records, noting that Jason was still listed as a trustee.

The Chair confirmed that she would carry out those updates when submitting the annual accounts, which were due by 18 November 2025. At that time, the list of trustees would be revised to remove Jason Bull and add Tony Hartland once his appointment had been formally confirmed at Zone 9's AGM. She explained that Tony currently served in an ex officio capacity pending that formal election.

The Chair further explained that both Companies House and the Charity Commission had introduced new verification procedures requiring each trustee and director to complete an identity-confirmation process using a personal verification code. She aimed to complete all trustee updates before 18 November so that RAYNET-UK would be compliant with the new requirements before they took effect the following year.

Tony Hartland G8WOX suggested that it might be helpful to hold the Zone 9 AGM before 16 November to ensure his election could be formally recorded for inclusion in this year's filings. The Chair agreed that, while not essential, the date could be adjusted to support the administrative timetable and confirmed that all necessary Companies House and Charity Commission submissions would be completed upon lodgement of the accounts.

The Chair also noted that she would file the statutory confirmation statement and accounts for the dormant company Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network Ltd, describing this as a procedural requirement.

No further matters were raised from the floor or from online participants. The Chair thanked everyone for their engagement and for helping to ensure RAYNET-UK's governance remained current and compliant.

9 – Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all participants and formally closed the meeting at 14:41 hrs.

Summary of Decisions

No.	Motion	Proposed	Seconded	Outcome
1	Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes	M9LAG	G4BDS	Carried Unanimously
2	Adoption of Trustees' and Chair's Report	-	-	Carried Unanimously
3	Adoption of Annual Accounts 2024–25	G4BDS	G8GQJ	Carried Unanimously
4	Presentation of Awards and Roll of Honour	-	-	Recorded
5	Acknowledgement of MOU and Licensing Actions	-	-	Noted

Signatures

Signed: _____ (Chair)
Date: _____

Signed: _____ (Minute Secretary)
Date: _____