

Minutes Of The 1st UK Sysops / Netrom Owners Meeting

Held at the Post House Hotel, Crick, Northamptonshire on
Saturday 28th November 1987

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Introductions
3. Appointment of Chairman for meeting
4. Mike Dennison G3XDV Chairman PWG
5. Netrom Networking. Multifrequency nodes (G4MTP)
6. Messages to Sysop/Sysops (G4SPV)
7. HF Gateways (G3LDI)
8. Use of personal PBBS such as Kams (G4KLX)
9. Use of SR SX SS etc (GM1VBE)
10. 9a) Bulletin and Bulletin Group Routing (G1DIL)
11. 9b) Bulletin Identification (G1DIL)
12. Forwarding to your neighbour vs. DX forwarding (G1DIL)
13. Formation of organisation of sysops (All)
14. 5 min per group (All)
15. Open forum and any other business (All)
16. Date & time of next meeting? (All)

The chair was taken by G4MTP who first asked for apologies.

1. Apologies

A list of apologies is attached herewith.

2. Introductions

Everyone present was asked to introduce themselves and a list of those present is attached herewith.

3. Appointment of Chairman

There being no other nominations, G4MTP remained in the chair.

4. Mike Dennison G3XDV

Mike Dennison G3XDV, chairman of the Packet Working Group addressed the meeting and made the following points:-

- (a) A considerable amount of time had been spent by the PWG in liaison with DTI to try and regularise the situation with regard to packet radio and the required license changes.
- (b) It is understood that the press release relating to these changes is imminent.
- (c) The mechanism for the issue of the GB7 callsigns was explained:-

The RSGB will act as agents on behalf of the DTI with regard to the issue of GB7 callsigns for the 2 metre Packet Mailboxes on 144.650.

The PWG had currently received some 28 such applications for 2 metre Mailboxes and all had been approved in principle - it was hoped to issue the GB7 callsigns to these stations as soon after the press release as possible.

Any other type of Mailbox or unattended Cross Band Link, gateway or node would have to be submitted to the DTI in the normal manner to obtain site clearance etc. Currently the PWG had received in excess of 30 such applications for frequencies between 50MHz and 2.3GHz. These would be processed and passed to the DTI in due course.

- (d) Discussions had taken place with the VHF committee with regard to the frequency allocations for packet and the following agreements had been reached:-

4 Channels on 70cm:

433.625
433.650
433.675
432.675

4 metre link frequency

70.4875

4 metre working frequency in all mode section

G3XDV suggested the use of 70.325

Finally G3XDV exhorted the meeting not to discuss matters that they were not qualified or authorised to do so, such as frequency allocation etc. as it would be totally non productive and a waste of everyone's time.

5. Netrom Networking. Multi-frequency nodes

G4MTP introduced the topic of Netrom Networking and the use of Multi-frequency nodes. The topic of providing network links on non end-user frequencies was discussed and agreed to be essential as was the use of high speed modems on those links. Detailed discussions took place primarily between G4MTP/G4LZV/G3RUH/G8GGI/G8HBE on how in the short term this could be achieved.

As a result all present agreed to try the following setting for PARMS in the light of the current lack of the required redundancy in alternative routing:-

Parm Setting

2	1
3	192 (2m) 210 (shared) 244 (dedicated backbone)
4	255
5	Normally 6 but maybe 4 or even 2 for Nodes currently at the periphery of the network.
6	Normally 5 but maybe 2 or even 1 for Nodes currently at the periphery of the network.

It was also agreed that no routes would be locked as permanent other than to lock out a path with a zero route quality.

Mnemonic IDs should it was agreed also indicate the location and frequency of the Netrom node ie 2 or 3 letters for the location and frequencies as follows:-

- 2 - 2 metre
- 4 - 4 metre
- 6 - 6 metre
- 7 - 70cm.

6. Messages to Sysop/Sysops.

The use of the words SYSOP/SYSOPS was introduced by Andy G4SPV. Andy's idea is to limit the use of SYSOP to locals on their own bulletin board and SYSOPS to \$BID type Bulletins. After much discussion this was agreed.

7. HF Gateways.

G3LDI, although unable to attend the meeting, asked for the topic of HF Packet Gateways to be raised. After discussions it became evident that there is much fascinating traffic around on HF and that possibly the UK network at present is somewhat parochial in its attitude.

Mike Dennison stated that at present no HF Packet BBS/Gateway applications had been received and that they would receive the PWG's favourable consideration if they were. Dave G3VOM confirmed that he had received an application form and would be completing it and returning it to the PWG.

8. Use of personal PBBS such as Kams

The use of KAM's as PBBS was raised by Jonathon G4KLX. Jonathon asked that these machines be banned as they cause problems with their owners reading and sending their own messages by connecting to their own digipeater.

Several present argued for the use of KAM's to relieve National network BBSs by those BBSs being able to forward the mail for the owner of the KAMs and those in the KAMS locality. However Mike Dennison agreed that after the issue of the GB7 licence it would be necessary for national forwarding BBS Sysops to restrict mail forwarding to the KAM owner only unless the station held a GB7 licence.

9. Use of SR SX SS etc

The use of a single letter identification after the S in the first line of a message was introduced by G4MTP on behalf of GM1VBE who had raised the matter on the telephone whilst presenting his apologies. Much discussion ensued and eventually the following were agreed upon:-

SX - PWG Matters

SR - Raynet

SA - Satellite or AMSAT

SZ - Reserved for use by Sysops for referring to groups of messages on his own BBS

SW - Wanted items

Many felt that it would be difficult to get end users to adopt the use of these letters but it was pointed out by Andy G1DIL that in practice most of the messages would come from the originators such as G3XDV for PWG and G3STG for Raynet and therefore the system would work most of the time.

It was agreed therefore to implement the system and possibly add further letters later when the situation in the States had been clarified.

9A. Bulletin and Bulletin Group Routing.

Andy G1DIL talked about the \$BID system and as a result all sysops present agreed that they should not be offered BID type messages from more than two other BBSs. As a result most sysops present were able to remove between 10% and 25% of their \$ signs from their forwarding files thus reducing the amount of forwarding traffic quite considerably.

All sysops agreed to talk to their neighbour sysops not at the meeting to see if further reductions could be made.

9B. Bulletin Identification.

Bulletin identification was also talked about by Andy G1DIL and after discussion it was agreed that it would be ideal for sysops to adopt the practise of generating BID's as follows:-

XXXYYMMDDA where:

XXX refer to the three (or two) letters of the originators callsign (eg MTP)

YY refer to the year e.g. 87

MM refers to the month eg 11 for November of 08 for August

DD refers to the date in the month e.g. 29, 08 etc.

A refers to the first message on that day, B the second, C the third etc.

For example:- MTP871129C refers to the third message raised by G4MTP on the 29th November 1987

10. Forwarding to your neighbour vs. DX forwarding

On the matter of forwarding to your neighbour vs. DX forwarding, all sysops agreed that they would try and decrease the number of other BBSs to which they forward. However it was not a simple matter due to the particular location and requirement of some BBSs.

11. Formation of organisation of sysops.

With regard to the formation of an organisation of Sysops it was agreed that formal organisation was not required and would only probably cause work to those involved and result in inefficiency.

However the meeting had so far proved to be extremely useful and therefore it was agreed to hold a meeting at 3 monthly intervals (ie 4 a year) and that the organiser for each meeting would be appointed at the previous meeting. John G1AWD agreed to make arrangements for the next meeting in February in the Reading area and to inform everyone in due course.

Andy G1DIL agreed on behalf of the PWG to be the central point for the distribution of WA7MBL official updates. Upon receipt of the same Andy agreed to inform all sysops on the Network who would in turn then send the usual SAE plus disc/discs as requested.

Many useful MBL utils have appeared in recent months and many more are in the process of being written. G4SWY as an author of such software stated that he was sure that most authors would like to distribute their own wares.

As a result it was agreed to use G4DGK as a central location for all details of what utils were available from whom.

12. Five minutes per group.

This item on the agenda allowed every group or individual in attendance to have a small slot in which to raise a particular topic or hobby horse or to give them the opportunity to tell everyone about their group and its current status and future plans.

Items raised included: high speed dedicated one to one data links, new BBS coming on stream, congestion on 2m, allocation of frequencies for network links, methods of raising money. RTTY/ASCII/Packet Gateways, HF/VHF/Gateways, European Gateways and many other interesting topics that gave much food for thought.

13. Open forum and any other business.

Under open forum, a letter from G1OCN was read out a copy of which is attached. Andy G1DIL confirmed that he had written his reply but would have been able to dispatch it much quicker if John had supplied his address on the letter at the time of writing.

14. Date & time of next meeting.

The organiser of the next meeting was agreed at this stage to allow open forum and any other discussions to continue informally after the closure of the meeting. The next meeting was agreed to be run by John G1AWD in Reading some time in February and John would inform all via the network.

15. Vote of Thanks.

A vote of thanks was proposed and unanimously agreed for the chairman for organising and chairing the meeting.

16. Informal discussions

took place after the meeting closed, much of which centred around a IBM clone and a large quantity of discs.

ATTENDEES

Callsign	Name	Lunch/etc	From	PSS	NETROM
G1AWD	John	Yes	Reading	GB3RA	Yes GB3RA
G4SPV	Andy	Yes	Stevenage	G4SPV	No
G4SWY	Derek	Yes	Watford	?	?
G4LZV	Keith	Yes	Kent	-	Yes G4LZV
G8HBE	Bob	Yes	Chiltern Hills	G8HBE	Yes G8HBE
G4MTP	John	Yes	Daventry	G4MTP/GB3RY	Yes G4RFG
G4JTY	Neil	Yes	Daventry	G4MTP/GB3RY	Yes G4RFG
G4MQS	Paul	Yes	Leicester	GB3RY	Yes GB3RY
G3VOM	Dave	Yes	Manchester	G3VOM	No
G3RUH	James	Yes	Cambridge	-	Yes GB3PX
G3WGV	John	Yes	Wokingham	G3WGV	No
G4VYA	Joe	-	Midlands	GB3AP/G4JBX	Yes GB3AP
G4BVE	John	Yes	Crewe	GB3CD	-
G1DIL	Andy	Yes	PWG Cttee	G1DIL	No
G4IDX	Dave	Yes	Ashford	G4IDX	No
G1APC	Peter	Yes	Swindon	G1APC	No
G0CND	Ian	Yes	Leicester	-	Yes G0GDR
G1IXR	Nick	Yes	Leicester	-	Yes G0GDR
G8KHV	Bob	Yes	West Mids	G4JBX	Yes GB3AP
G4KLX	Jonathon	Yes	Derbyshire	G4KLX	No
G4CLI	Dave	Yes	Wakefield	G4CLI	Yes GB7WP
G0COA	Phil	Yes	T.O. Wakefield Rep Group		Yes GB7WP
G3SPX	Ken	Yes	Chairman Wakefield Rep. Group		Yes GB7WP
G3XDV	Mike	Yes	Kent, Chairman PWG		-
G4DGK	John	Yes	West Drayton	G4DGK-2	No
G8SJP	Iain	Yes	Uxbridge	G8SJP	No
G8GGI	Bob	Yes	New Malden	GB3KP	Yes GB3XP

Apologies From:-

Callsign	Name	From	PSS	NETROM
G0BSX	Peter	Plymouth	G0BSX	Yes ?
G8EIA	Richard	Middlesboro'	G8EIA	No
G4KCM	Clive	Southampton	G4KCM	No
G8LWY	Ted	Kingston	GB3UP	No
G3LDI	Roger	Norwich	G3LDI	No
G4JBX	Adrian	Tamworth	G4JBX	No
G3PYB	Peter			
G1PVR	Richard	Bicester	G1PVR	No
G3OUF	Dave	Potters Bar	GB3HQ	No
G4PHL	Phil	Sheffield	G4PHL	No
GM1VBE	Stewart			
G1KVD	Mike			

Converted from good old plain ASCII packet mail by Paula G8PZT