

2016 AGM The 68th Annual General Meeting of the NZ Radio DX League was held at Mangawhai on Sunday 6 November, with members physically present from Southland, South Canterbury, Waikato, Auckland and Northland. Administration Committee (Adcom) members from Oamaru, Ashburton and Malaysia also participated in the meeting by Skype internet conference call, as allowed under constitutional changes approved last year.

In his address to the meeting, **Patron SUTTON BURTENSHAW** commented on the 'high service' provided to all of us by the various editors of the New Zealand DX Times. He noted that "the information provided is as up to date as possible, much of it from overseas and often supplemented with additions/alterations included in DX Dialog our online service by local contributors as well. Adcom is to be congratulated for their continued support and I consider we are still very active even if fighting a slowing trend."

Presenting his report, **League President BRYAN CLARK** said that it was pleasing that the club continues strongly, with the NZ DX Times providing an excellent read each month, thanks to Chief Editor Stu, his long-serving team of section editors, and our loyal contributing members. "It is true that the DX listening options for members in urban locations are diminishing due to ever increasing local interference levels, as well as the slow decline in international shortwave broadcasting operators. Just this week we learned that Vatican Radio would be stopping shortwave broadcasts. To address the first of these issues, Adcom has committed to establishing a remote listening location in a low-noise location that would be accessible to members through the Internet. At the 2016 DX Convention in North Otago we began fundraising for the initial costs for this installation. Adcom hopes to finalise a location for the remote SDR receiver in the New Year, once a robust Internet connection arrangement has been identified and costed. In the meantime, it is encouraging that longtime member **CHRIS MACKERELL** has installed a Kiwi SDR at his Nelson home and earlier this month made this accessible to League members to trial. And **PETER MOTT** is planning a similar installation in the Bay of Islands. I am hoping that providing access to remote SDRs in NZ locations will go some way to restoring the DX fortunes of our urban members." Bryan acknowledged Paul Ormandy, Paul Aronsen, Steven Greenyer and Arthur de Maine's efforts in organising an excellent gathering at Moeraki in March. The club has its 70th birthday in 2018 and Adcom is already working on a convention to mark that significant anniversary.

After the Moeraki convention, Bryan and Life Member **PAUL ARONSEN** visited the new Awarua Communications Museum outside Invercargill. Out of this visit has come a proposal for a joint DX listening display at the museum that would honour Southland's important role in the DX hobby and remember our most famous member Arthur Cushen. "I would encourage more members to join the League's DX Dialog Yahoo Discussion Group on the Internet - where you can get instant access to time-sensitive DX tips, guidance on building antennas and reducing local interference, in fact anything hobby-related that participants care to share. DX Dialog and our radiodx.com website stand alongside the DX Times as key resources for members. Thanks to Paul our webmaster for the radiodx.com website, and to **BILL MARSH** who has been contributing a lot of material to the site on the early days of DX in New Zealand. I'd like to thank my colleagues on Adcom for their support and work for the League, in particular Phil, who is taking a well-earned retirement from the Treasurer role, but will continue to be part of Adcom."

Bryan concluded that it was time for a change of President after his 8 years in the role, but he will still be heavily involved in the club.

Outgoing **Treasurer PHIL VAN DE PAVERD** spoke to the annual accounts, which show the club in a sound financial position though membership numbers continue their slow decline. The meeting agreed to hold annual subscriptions at the current level.

Chief Editor STUART FORSYTH presented his report via Skype. He said that the DX Times is only as good as those who put it together, not just the sub-editors, but also the club members, without whose contribution this publication would certainly be the poorer. When he compares the magazine with others he sees regularly Stuart said he was quietly proud of the quality we produce.

Stu continued "the sub-editors do the nuts and bolts work and to Theo, Kelvin, Yuri, Ken, Ian, Arthur, Bryan, John, Sutton, Adam and Jerry I give my most heartfelt thanks. When one of them decides to leave his post, it will be a difficult one to fill. I have greatly appreciated the prompt turn around with

articles generally reaching me by the Monday after closing ensuring that the magazine is in member's inboxes by the Wednesday after closing, at the latest.

TONY KING must also get a huge wrap. He has looked after the X-Band list, since the band's inception. He does a magnificent job keeping up with all the changes and sending them through on a regular basis. They are our best chance of hearing some Yanks on Mediumwave and it harkens back to the good old days in the 60s and before. The focal point of the magazine is Theo's Mailbag column and it is good to see the months when many contribute. It is always a good read. The saddest piece of news this year has been the misfortune that has befallen **former Chief Editor, DAVID RICQUISH**. He presided over the magazine at a bumper time and did a marvellous job. I have known David for around 40 years. He enjoys a good debate and while I often don't agree with him, he is a good friend. I know his recovery is slow and very frustrating and I sure we all send him our very best wishes for the future. I would like to thank the Administration Committee for its continuing support. The move to high resolution only magazines is a good one and will improve the reading experience of all." Stu closed his report wishing the League well as it enters its 69th year and he looked forward to another 12 months of good DX and the reporting thereof!

Webmaster PAUL ORMANDY reported that radiodx.com had received 90,000 visits in the past 2 years. He also thanked Bill Marsh for his efforts with website content. As Public Relations Officer, Paul also expressed appreciation of **ADAM CLAYDON's** efforts promoting the DX League via Facebook.

In his Competitions Report, **ARTHUR DE MAINE** noted that "the writing reports and receiving verifications part of our hobby has not died, members are now using e-mail to obtain that verification. This shows up when you read the Mailbag section of the DX Times. I would encourage members to include e-mail addresses in their Mailbag contribution if they have received a verification by that means." He also asked that members contributing loggings and QSLs to the Mailbag and other magazine columns include the country name or transmitter site, to assist his judging.

Best Loggings of the year:

Shortwave - Under 9: 4750kHz Bangladesh Betar, Shavar - Ian Wells & Paul Ormandy;

3290kHz Voice of Guyana - Bryan Clark; 3310kHz Radio Mosoj Chaski Bolivia - Stu Forsyth (reception at Lake Ellesmere).

Over 9: 9500kHz TWR Swaziland - Kelvin Brayshaw; 9680kHz Voice of Hope, Zambia - Bryan Clark.

Mediumwave - 800kHz WVAL Minnesota USA - Bryan Clark; 840kHz Radio Nacional Panama - Paul Ormandy.

Best QSLs of the year:

Shortwave – 3310kHz Radio Mosoj Chaski, Bolivia - Ian Wells and Stu Forsyth; 6265kHz Summer Meeting Radio Netherlands - John Durham.

Mediumwave – 1660kHz WGIT Faro de Santidad, Canovanas, Puerto Rico - Stu Forsyth (logged at Mangawhai); 800kHz WVAL Minnesota USA - Bryan Clark.

The following officials were elected for the 2016/17 year:

Patron **SUTTON BURTENSCHAW**

President **ARTHUR DE MAINE**

Vice President **DAVID NORRIE**

Secretary **STEVEN GREENYER**

Treasurer **BRYAN CLARK**

Chief Editor **STUART FORSYTH**

Public Relations/Publicity Officer **PAUL ORMANDY**

Competitions Secretary **PAUL ARONSEN**

Committee Member **PHIL VAN DE PAVERD.**

The meeting closed with Stu thanking Bryan for his years of service to the club. Following refreshments, a visit was made to the Moir Point Christian Camp in Mangawhai Heads which is being considered as a venue for Convention 2018. Everyone agreed that the facilities were excellent and venue most suitable for a gathering of members.