



The Shack
Mill Road
Ballasalla
Isle of Man
IM9 2EG

Isle of Man Amateur Radio Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of Monday, 5th January 2026, held using WhatsApp.

The Meeting opened at 19:30GMT.

Apologies:

None

Present:

Richard GD8EXI, John GD0TFG. Robert GD0GGO, Stuart GD0OUD, and Keith GD5IOM

Secretary's Report

- Current membership stands at **31 members** as of **5 January 2026**.
- Normal meeting format to resume from **7 January 2026**, including circulation of RADCOM / RSGB news.
- Personalised emails to be sent:
 - Thanking members who have renewed.
 - Reminding others to re-join.

Treasurer's Report

Club funds: £4,787.56

Repeater funds: £567.83

Total at bank: £4,214.74

Club cash in hand: £55.55

Shack rent has been paid by cheque, which has not yet been cashed.

Chairman's Report

No formal report was presented as the relevant points are covered elsewhere.

Follow-Up Actions

Actions – Richard GD8EXI

Website Admin Access

Richard to speak with the current website administrator re. admin access to **iomars.im**.

The site is hosted on Netlify.com and currently pointed at:

<https://iomars.netlify.app/>

To supply links for the training page. Also supply links for propagation prediction sites and Airscout software.

AGM Meeting Notes

Richard to obtain AGM meeting notes for circulation and approval at the next meeting.

GT1IOM and GT3FLH QRZ.com Pages

Richard will work to get the **GT1IOM** QRZ.com page updated and Stuart the **GT3FLH** one.

Events and Activities Programme

Tuesday 21 January – Testing Night with antenna and feeder theme.

Plans:

- To set up an antenna range in the scout hall building and try to measure the relative gain of members antennas.
- Plot return loss against frequency for members antennas.
- Measure the loss of members feeder.
- Discuss what the results mean in the real world.

Thursday 29 January 2026 – Creg ny Baa Meeting

(Last Thursday of the month)

Ideas for Scout Building Meetings:

- Informal show-and-tell (5-minute lightning talks)
- Announcement of February and spring events
- Encourage newer members to briefly introduce their interests

Sunday 8 February – 432Mhz Affiliated Societies Contest encourage members to enter.

Ideas:

- Pre-contest briefing for newcomers
- Post-contest debrief and results review

Thursday 18 February – Bring and Buy Sale at Scout Building in Ballasalla.

Plans:

- Short pre-sale “What is it?” explanations for unusual equipment
- Table for society equipment sales or donations

Talks and Technical Evenings

Morse Expert (Android) – Talk by Stuart

Introductory and practical session using the Morse Expert application:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ve3nea.morse_expert&hl=en

Ideas:

- Live demonstration
- Beginner and advanced training modes
- Integrating app practice with on-air CW
- Portable CW practice using phones or tablets
- Members encouraged to install the application beforehand

Scatter Modes – Talk by Richard (Spring 2026)

(EME, Meteor and Aircraft scatter)

Ideas:

- Introduction to weak-signal VHF/UHF modes
- Required equipment overview
- Live decoding examples (e.g. WSJT-X)
- Pathways into scatter-mode operating
- Use of AirScout

VHF/UHF Contesting – Talk by Richard (date TBC)

Ideas:

- Overview of VHF/UHF contest operation
- Portable versus fixed station strategies
- Logging software overview
- Encouraging team and solo entries

Valve Equipment Collection – John GD0TFG (date TBC)

Ideas:

- Show-and-tell evening
- Why valve equipment still matters (modern high-power RF)
- Safe powering-up of vintage equipment
- Members invited to bring items

Sunday 5 July 2026 – Tynwald Day Special Event Station

Ideas:

- Public-facing special event station
- Visitor log and QSL promotion
- Simple explanation boards (“What is Amateur Radio?”)
- Youth- and family-friendly operating sessions
- Promotion of the society and amateur radio

September – Backpackers / Portable Operations

Ideas:

- SOTA-style portable operating
- Lightweight antenna workshop beforehand
- Power options
- Field logging and spotting applications

Special Responsibilities and Appointments for 2026

Appointments agreed at the meeting:

QSL Manager

Appointed: Stuart GD0OUD

Responsible for dispatching outgoing QSL cards via the RSGB QSL Bureau.

Applies to society callsigns only.

Incoming QSL cards remain an RSGB appointment.

IOMARS Internet Presence

Appointed: Richard GD8EXI and Robert GD0GGO

Responsible for organising and distributing news and information via online facilities.

Operates under the direction of the elected committee.

Radio Station Manager (GT1IOM, GT3FLH, GT4IOM)

Appointed: Stuart GD0OUD

Responsible for ensuring society logbooks are properly maintained.

Ensures all society stations, including special event and contest stations, are operated in accordance with relevant rules and regulations.

Custodian / Shack Manager

Appointed: Committee (collectively)

Shack management responsibilities are held by the committee as a whole.

Inventory, Equipment Records and Loan Operations

Assigned to: Richard GD8EXI and Keith GD5IOM

Responsibilities include:

- Maintaining records of society equipment and locations
- Overseeing equipment loans
- Advising the committee on repairs or replacements
- Making records available at committee meetings for planning purposes (reference: paragraph 3(a))

Training Officer

Status: Not yet appointed

The role remains vacant.

An appointment is required to cover Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced licence training.

The Training Officer must be an RSGB-registered tutor and a committee member, in accordance with the constitution.

Next Meeting

Monday, 2 February 2026

Will try using google meeting video conferencing.

Close

The meeting closed at **20:42**.