



The British Amateur Radio Teledata Group

DATACOM

Vol 49 issue 1

Spring 2007

Welcome back to Datacom, albeit a very, very thin issue. We hope that 2007 will have some good datacoms to offer to you and we hope you will continue to benefit from being a member of BARTG. Before you ask, the last issue of Datacom was "Issue 3, 2006" [Vol 48 Issue 3] and it appeared back in August 2006. The reasons for the delay in publishing another issue are quite simple to explain; we had a shortage of copy and our editor was inundated with other commitments.

This lack of copy is an ongoing problem and, as you will read, has brought about the need for important changes to BARTG. Indeed, you may already have heard about these changes. It is proposed that Datacom is to change from being a paper based magazine to become a web based magazine and that BARTG's subs are to reduce to nil. This would be the "new look" BARTG. The purpose of this issue is to bring these important changes to your attention.

❖ 2007 SEES IMPORTANT CHANGES PROPOSED FOR BARTG ❖

THE FUTURE OF DATACOM

In 2002 **Datacom** changed from a quarterly to a **monthly** publication because there was plenty of copy to publish and because we wanted members to have an up-to-date magazine. As you'll know, publication has become somewhat irregular due to **lack of copy**. This is a big problem; our editor is willing and eager to produce an issue every month but cannot write all the articles needed! We could publish Datacom less frequently but urgent news could become very dated. We know that most of BARTG's members have access to the **Internet** so our proposed solution is to move Datacom **away from paper and onto the BARTG web site**. This will enable us to publish Datacom as and when copy reaches our editor. It will also drastically **reduce the running costs** of Datacom.

We appreciate that a few BARTG members may not have access to the Internet. We're coming up with plans to cater for these members so **please let Andrew G8GNI know** if you are such a member.

THE BARTG WEB SITE

Our **web site** will be an essential factor in your membership so please **visit it regularly**.

THE FINAL ISSUE OF DATACOM ON PAPER

Publication was planned for the end of 2006 but we thought it would be nice to give all of BARTG's members the opportunity to **contribute** to this final issue. The deadline for articles to reach Arf is **30th June** and we'd particularly welcome articles such as:

- your reminiscences of BARTG's past
- what datacoms offers for you
- where you see datacoms and BARTG going in the future.

SUBS AND DONATIONS

The committee has considered BARTG's finances and **subs** very carefully.

Administrative costs have reduced significantly thanks to the use of emails and phone calls instead of committee meetings in London. This, allied with the expected reduction in Datacom's costs, led the committee to decide to **reduce all subs to nil**. If you pay your subs by **standing order** please ensure it is **cancelled** (BARTG **cannot** do this for you). As you will see, below and in the proposed Constitution, **donations** to BARTG's funds will be most welcome.

It is proposed that BARTG has both **Members** and **Friends**. There are full details about these overleaf.

❖ MEMBERS AND “FRIENDS” ❖

Firstly, anyone who was a **member at any time in 2006** will have their membership extended through to the end of 2007. The **proposed Transition Constitution** (see below) offers both **Membership** and **Friends**. Let's have a look at what these offer, as defined in this proposed Constitution. **Honorary Life Memberships** would remain in force as **members**.

MEMBERS make a donation of a minimum of £5 or \$10 or €10 in any BARTG financial year. Membership will then last until the end of that financial year. Members register their details with BARTG via BARTG's web site and will be listed on the BARTG web site as a Member (unless they request otherwise). Members have access to the BARTG forum. Members have voting rights. Members can be elected to the committee. Members have access to the “Members Only” section of the BARTG web site. Members receive a discount on the charge for BARTG awards plus FREE upgrade stickers. Members are on BARTG's email list to receive emails containing news items and information about amateur radio datacoms. Members have access to Mr Diddler's Help pages. Members will have a membership number.

FRIENDS make no financial contribution to BARTG. Friends register their details with BARTG via BARTG's web site and will be listed on BARTG's web site as a Friend (unless they request otherwise). Friends have access to the BARTG forum. Friends do not have voting rights. Friends cannot be elected onto the committee but can be co-opted to the committee. Friends are on BARTG's email list to receive emails containing news items and information about amateur radio datacoms

Remember that if you were a **member** at any time in **2006** (i.e. you received a 2006 Datacom) then **your membership** is extended to the end of **2007** at which time you can **choose** to make a donation to remain a member or to become a Friend.

❖ PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION ❖

Enclosed with this issue of Datacom is a **TRANSITION CONSTITUTION**. There is a formal proposal to replace the current Constitution with this Transition Constitution to enable the proposed changes to be put into effect, i.e. bring about the “new look” BARTG.

The formal proposal is that “**THE TRANSITION CONSTITUTION COMPLETELY REPLACES THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION**”.

This proposal is put by Ian G4EAN and is seconded by the remainder of the BARTG committee.

Your votes (“IN FAVOUR” or “AGAINST” the proposal) are invited by post to - G4EAN, 56 Arnot Hill Rd, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6LQ.

The closing date is **Thursday 10th May**.

If the proposal is carried then the **Transition Constitution** will come into immediate effect. If it is not carried then the “new look” BARTG will not happen and an EGM may have to be held. Please note that the committee has discussed the “new look” BARTG at considerable length and the committee has no alternative to offer.

❖ CONTESTS AND AWARDS ❖

Finally, BARTG's very successful **Contests** and **Awards** will be continuing and we aim to develop and enhance them over the next year or two.

Remember – visit www.bartg.demon.co.uk regularly for the latest news.