

Alba Iulia, Romania 25/09/2015

Present :

YO : YO6HAY Gheorghe Zaharie, president
 G : G4GNQ Geoff Sims, Vice-President
 ON4CIR Karel Praet, secretary, treasury at intrim
 D : DL8DWL Detlef Rämisch
 HB : DL8DWL Detlef Rämisch
 HA: DL5MHQ Ludwig Till
 OM/OK : OK1FUK Kamil Uher
 OE : OE3GHO Georg Haberfelner
 ON : OE3GHO Georg Haberfelner
 F : F6IAP Claude Le Goaster
 LX : F6IAP Claude Le Goaster
 M.C. Group : G4GNQ Geoff Sims

Excused :

ON4KV Mario Vandervelde	OM5CX Peter Kozar	F9AP André Petelat
OE5FSL Franz Sonnleitner	LX1LE Emile Lutgen	HB9MEC Gotfried Schmid
DK9VB Detlef Gard		

10. Opening Ceremony.

Right on time the President Gheorghe Zaharie, could open the congress by welcome everyone and light the candles.

11. Congress Agenda plus the Silent Keys

We can not start the real work without remember the members who left us :

- DC6KF	OK2PKY	DL8UR
- DH7LF	DL1HDH	DK6QE
- HB9SBO	OM8CA	F6EPZ
- G8VL	OE1BKA	OE6KGG
- DL7BY	OM8CA	OM5AL
- SWL DL100	IT9HTH	DF5PP

12. Minutes of meeting in Hamburg 2014

No remarks were given, the minutes are accepted.

13. (Presidents report)

14. (Report from the PR manager, Geoff Sims - G4GNQ)

Since the last congress I have been trying to find a solution of ways to reform the FIRAC group in Denmark.

I have written to several OZ members and my knowledge of Danish people gained from the visits made to Denmark 1970's has proved invaluable. By nature the Danes are quite reserved and not know for letter writing, but from the few remaining members I have, I keep them informed to the best of my ability.

I have started to revise the out dated OZ database currently on the Firac Website following several letters being returned back as no longer at this address. Since then I have been updating my information and eventually this will result in a more accurate membership list than at present. The original trial added to my postage bill and Mario was informed of the cost but I do use a much better method now.

Regarding Norway, I have been in contact LA4OGA, Roger Haug and see if we can attempt to merge both groups into a single Scandinavian group. At present there are only 4 Norwegian members and he is active on a daily basis using LA1NSB. Regarding my suggestion relating to the joint group, he told me it was a very good idea but to make the idea work may be a hard job. I have written to Henryk SP9JPA in Poland to try to get information, but unfortunately despite sending several letters and other requests, none of the methods I have tried have resulted in any reply.

I am quite active on Skype and use this and other links social links to keep in contact with Firac members.

Hopefully if I am able to continue with this work, I should be able to commit more time in seeking new member countries thus increasing the membership of Firac.

Finally if any of you have any suggestions on how we improve the image of Firac it will be most welcome.

That is all for this year.

Geoff Sims G4GNQ September 2015.

15. Cash report by Karel Praet ON4CIR for Mario Vandervelde – ON4KV :

In september 2012 we invested 8.000,- € to become a better interest rate. The traditional costs are the contest medaillons, the support of the presents of Firac in Friedrichshafen, and the homepage. The income are the membership fees. We have this year a grow of 302,51 €.

Every year prices went up, except the congress price what stayed around 300 – 350,- €. With the profit of last year the board decided to support the congresses by 10,- €/participant. Year by year this will be evaluated to prevent going bankrupt .

16. (Cash audit)

Claude Le Goaster F5IAP and Peter Reiter OE5ITL who replaces Monika Fleischanderl OE5MOM declare after a seriously search for mistakes that NO mistakes were found. Mario ON4KV made a very good job.

17. 8/9. Relieve of the old and election of a new presidium :

Candidates :

President : Gheorge Zaharie, YO6HAY - Geoff Sims, G4GNQ – Wolfgang Hunger, DL5MM

Vice President : Geoff Sims, G4GNQ
Secretary : Karel Praet, ON4CIR
Treasurer : Mario Vandervelde, ON4KV
Public relations : Geoff Sims, G4GNQ

No complains were made about the election compain held by all candidates. DG7DNL Hartmut Riedel counted the votes resulting :

President :	DL5MM Wolfgang Hunger	(9/11)
Vice President :	G4GNQ Geoff Sims	(11/11)
Secretary :	ON4CIR Karel Praet	(11/11)
Treasurer :	ON4KV Mario Vandervelde	(10/11) 1 invalid
Public relations :	G4GNQ Geoff Sims	(10/11) 1 invalid

All elected accepted the result.

10. Appoint the commissioners, art 7 FIRAC rules :

As there are no better candidates than the one we have, everyone is quite happy for the outcome :

- Geoff Sims - G4GNQ will continue with the MC group, P.R. and the function of award manager.
- Detlef Ramsch – DL8DWL will continue to be the webmaster and do the update of the rapid call book (data-manager).
- Tibor Kiss – HA5BSW will continue to be the contest manager.

11. Cash auditors

Monika Fleischanderl OE5MOM has to be replaced, Peter Reiter OE5ITL is accepted, but as he started the job already and to avoid he has to be replaced together with Claude Le Goaster in 2017, the board will take a decision in the next 2016 spring meeting in Festenburg.
Claude Le Goaster F5IAP is accepted for 2 years (2015 + 2016).

12. Subscription of membership fee 2016 :

Today there is no reason to increase, but as Firac started to support congresses, this might be possible in the far future. The subscription remains on 1,- €

13. Proposals are asked to members of the board how to support by Firac :

This point was handled during point 6, cash report.

14. Radio Traffic by Geoff Sims - G4GNQ :

The band conditions during the past 12 months have been very unpredictable and our Sunday morning net has suffered resulting in a much reduced participation. One regular participant is Aron YO9BRT who I have spoken too almost every week. My guess is that quite a number of our members are finding more important jobs to do rather than find a few minutes for amateur radio. Last year I mentioned the Solar propagation was starting to decline and over the duration of this year this has been very noticeable, particularly on the 40 Metre band.

Overall the skip distance has lengthened far earlier in the day than I would have expected. Any radio contacts I did make were around 300 KM, but during August when the band opened up most of my contacts were averaging around 500 Km. On the DX bands 15 Metres has been somewhat unpredictable and 10 metres has been closed to radio traffic for the best part of the year. My weekly afternoon QSO with the USA has been almost nil resulting from the declining H F conditions. On occasions I use the internet to obtain a fairly accurate solar report and I do have a link on FIRAC.org.uk to one reliable site.

When I became licensed in 1977 the use of computers for amateur radio was non-existent, whereas now computers can be found in most radio shacks. There are various dongles you can plug into the computer, although I never have tried this method. However radio amateurs are using computers on a daily basis for call logging where they can be quite useful for the numerous contests we hear on most weekends. Finally to close this report I wish you all good listening and many good DX contact during 2016.

That is the end of my report.

Glossop 12.09.15.

15. Firac congress in 2016, 2017 :

2016 : Italy is not represented this year, no questions can be asked about there candidacy. As the British group celebrate there 50th anniversary in 2016, they invite Firac to join there celebrations by organising the congress in the U.K. This invitation is accepted. Details could not be presented at the moment and are expected before the end of January.

2017 : Last year the Austrian group announced they like to organise the congress in the Linz area, what 's accepted.

16. Hamradio 2015 in Friedrichshafen :

The German group EFA decided to go for all the same shirt and tie with Firac on it. It worked quite well : 217 visitors registered there name and 3 became member.

17. (Report about the issued FIRAC awards by G4GNQ :

It was a quite year, only 1 award was issued to HA8TG

18. Homepage FIRAC :

3 Months before the congress, the webmaster started to count visitors: about 3.000 a month, looking for 45 info's and totally 13.000 pages passed the visitors eyes.

19. Future of Firac : waiting for enforcement.

20. Sundries :

Firac contest timing as adopted at the 2012 congress in Sheffield. The British group likes to respect the historical site of the time 11:00 h am but this is not understood by the rest of the participating countries and rejected..

- Adresses of the national groups :

Year after year the same story : keeping the member list up-to-date depends of the national groups. Not only addresses has to be kept up-to-date, but also members has to inform the webmaster about S.K's . a.s.a.p. !

FIRAC secretary

Karel Praet, ON4CIR