

Report from our Annual General Meeting 2015 by Anker Petersen

The Danish Shortwave Club International (DSWCI) Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2015 was held at Landgasthof Tarp in the city of Tarp, Schleswig, Germany on May 09 at 1400 hours.

The following Board members took part: Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen, Erik Køie, Bent Nielsen, Kurt Ærenlund Pedersen, Andreas Schmid (Germany) and Anker Petersen. Other members: Rolf Meyer, Robert Kipp and Joachim Kornek (all Germany), Tibor Szilagyi (Sweden), Hella and Karl Helt and Klaus-Dieter Scholz (all Germany), Toshimichi Ohtake (Japan), Heikki Puranen, Arto Mujunen and Kari Kivekäs (all Finland). The following wives participated as guests in the evening dinner: Else Malmstrøm Jørgensen, Elin Hammer, Rita Mortier (all Denmark), Barbro Szilagyi (Sweden), Gertrud Schmid, Helga Neuner and Christiane Scholz (all Germany). A total of 24 participants!

Before the AGM at 1000 hours, 16 participants were welcomed in the home of Hella and Karl Helt, where we saw the impressive collection of old radio receivers and headsets. After this we had a very delicious turkey lunch at the Seniorenresidenz.



A few of Karl's many receivers



At the home of Hella and Karl Helt. Photo by Toshimichi

The Chairman opened the AGM by welcoming all 24 members and guests. Anker then gave a short historical review of the wars in Schleswig between Denmark and Germany 1848-1850 and 1864, which after diplomatic mediation nowadays has resulted in a very good friendship. He then read 15 greetings from members and other DX-friends in 8 countries.

Next Tibor Szilagyi as usual was elected as Chairman of the Meeting. He found that it was correctly announced in due time. The report from the latest AGM was approved.



The entire board of DSWCI

Then Anker Petersen gave his Chairman Report:

I welcome you to the 59th AGM of the DSWCI. The Club was formed on the 18th of November 1956 for those with hobbies of programme listening and DX-ing.

I am happy to report to you, that the past year once more has been a good and stable year for the DSWCI. Our economy is still very good. We have published the six-weekly Shortwave News in printed and electronic versions, the bi-weekly, electronic newsletter "DX-Window", the annual "Domestic Broadcasting Survey" and the monthly "Tropical Bands Monitor", as planned. Our website has been working very well.

Today we have 230 members in 34 countries. A year ago we had 240 members in 34 countries.

The present members are living in these countries: Germany still has most: 42, last year 43. Denmark is next with 23 members, last year 24. U.S.A. third with 20 members, last year 24. Italy is unchanged with 19 and Sweden now has 17 members. Last year it was 21. Japan has 15 members and the United Kingdom has 15 members. U.K. lost one member compared to 2014.

Finland, France and Spain each have 8 members, and the Netherlands 6, just like last year. Russia has reduced the numbers with one from 6 to 5. Belgium has increased its membership with 1 from 4 to 5 and India also with 1 from 3 to 4. Australia, Norway, the Republic of South Africa and Ukraine still have 3 members each, but Canada joined them by increasing their membership from 2 to 3. We still have 2 members in Austria, Bulgaria, Ireland, Luxembourg and Portugal. Finally we have one member in these countries: Argentina, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Sri Lanka and Switzerland with a loss of 1 in the latter. We also lost our members in Chile and the People's Republic of China, but instead we are happy to welcome one member in Cyprus and one in Israel.

The percentage of so-called "E-members", who pay reduced membership fee and read SWN on our website, is 62% like last year.

The trend with shortwave and medium wave stations, that closes down and replaces their broadcasting with live streaming on the internet, continues. This is valid both for international and domestic broadcasting.

An example is my favourite internet programme vtuner.com, which last year had about 38.000 stations from 173 countries audible with perfect audio quality anywhere in the world. Today there are more than 47.500 broadcasting stations available, if you have a computer with broadband connection.

A good example is Serbia, which terminates all broadcasts of "International Radio Serbia" by the end of June this year. Instead you can hear 149 different, local stations in Serbia on the internet vtuner.com .

That is radio programme listening, but NOT DX-ing! Traditional DX-ers, who likes all the challenges – and disturbances - of shortwaves, are against that, but younger generations prefer that! This means, that many high-powered transmitters have disappeared on shortwaves as well as mediumwaves, so that we DX-ers are able to hear more low-powered and rare stations.



Most of the participants, at the meeting Photo by Toshimichi

One of the main activities in the DSWCI has always been the production of Shortwave News (SWN), edited by Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen. Again during the past year it has been published regularly and each issue has been full of news, loggings and QSLs on SW and MW, all of a very high quality standard and with pages in colours!

With about 450 MW- and SW tips each time, I think that SWN is amongst the DX-bulletins in the world which offers most stations to listen to, as heard by other members.

This great listening activity is noted, despite the trend just mentioned with broadcasting stations leaving shortwaves. During the past year it has also become clear from our tips, that more and more interesting stations can be found on MW instead of on SW.

This high activity is also valid for our popular, electronic newsletter, the DX-Window. It continues to be sent out as bulk e-mails every second Wednesday to those interested, who have access to the Internet. It has contributions each time from an average of 20 active members and about 10 other DX-ers living in about 20 countries in 5 continents. We appreciate this high activity very much, which is shared with our active members! I spend nearly all my sparetime in one week to edit the bi-weekly DX-Window! I receive between 20 and 40 e-mails DAILY from DX-ers with contributions to the DX-Window or about Club matters and these takes hours daily to react on. I hardly have time myself to do any DX-ing!

If all contributors would be so kind to use the same format and sequence of information as in the DX-Window, I would not have to rewrite the contributions and that would save a lot of my time! Today 191 members or 83% of our membership receive the DX-Window by e-mail. However, additional members read it on our website.

The main content of the DX-Windows is summarized in a perfect way for Shortwave News by our Russian editor Dmitry Mezin in "DX-Mirror".

Our Swiss webmaster Rolf Wernli continues to do a supreme job in managing our website www.dswci.org. This includes putting all pages of the SWN and the DX-Window on the Member Area, as soon as Rolf receives the pages by e-mail from Kaj or me. The well organized and stable website no doubt has had a positive effect on our membership.

The Trial E-memberships for non-members, introduced 3 years ago, continues. The interested person will receive by e-mail a copy of our latest SWN free of charge. If the person is satisfied, he or she may join our Club. During the past year we got 19 applications of which 5 joined our Club.

However, if we decide today to dissolve the DSWCI, this possibility will terminate. Thank you to Rolf Wernli for this great initiative.

At the end of March, I finished editing the 17th edition of the Domestic Broadcasting Survey which at the same time was our 43rd edition of the annual Tropical Bands Survey. It is completely updated and unique, thanks to several monitors amongst our members.

Our sale during the past year of DBS-16 was a little less than the previous year where we sold 103 copies. We sold 95 copies of DBS-16, that were 40 printed and 55 e-mail copies. The sale of the new edition goes well. We have already sold 67 copies. Thanks to Toshi Ohtake for buying again 10 copies for resale to Japanese DX-ers!

In addition to that, our Tropical Bands Monitor has been published on our website for ten years now. It is updated monthly with a symbol for each month during the present year, when every, still active station has been monitored by a DX-er. In addition new frequencies compared to the latest DBS are highlighted.

In the Tropical Bands Monitor you can with a quick glance see, if a station on the tropical bands is heard regularly or not. The Tropical Bands are not yet dead. There are still about 150 active stations broadcasting there!

Many of the small stations have irregular transmissions for various reasons, but our worldwide co-operation of experienced DX-ers is able to provide this unique tool. It gives the best possible indication of which stations are on the air right now. No other Club in the world has such a service!

This monthly update is offered by e-mail to any DX-er, who buys the DBS-17. The complete loggings on the tropical bands in the years 2005-2014 have also been made available free of charge via our website.

In 2014, our Czech member, Jaroslav Bohac, again arranged the annual DX Contest which now is called: "The Grand Tour across all continents". This time 24 DX-ers from 14 countries did participate. I wish herewith to thank Jaroslav for organizing this contest once more. The last contest within the DSWCI will be later this year.

Finally my sincere thanks go to all members of the Board, the whole Editing Staff and our webmaster for your stable and very fine work done each month for the Club. Thank you also to the auditors Torben Dahl and Vagn Nielsen for checking the Club account on behalf of our members.

After a coffee break, the Chief Editor of SWN, Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen gave his Report:

A year has gone, and it is again time to give you a report of the printed version of Short Wave News. Again we have produced 8 editions, as we also did last year. The missing 9 edition will be made at the end of this month. Last year we had our AGM in the middle of June, so that is the reason why just 8 issues are produced because the years AGM is in the beginning of May. So my report goes from June 2014 to April 2015 with 8 issues, just as last year.

In this time span we have produced exactly 200 pages compared with 204 the period before, which is very similar the previous period. It shows the trend that there are lesser and lesser interesting stations to hear, thus the amount of pages is becoming lesser. In my reported period, we just had enough material for two editions containing 28 pages. This is also seen, that during the past months our DX-Mirror, Dmitry Mezin just had material for three pages in our so-called big editions, where we have planned five pages.

Again this year, I am happy to tell you, that all editions have been mailed without any delay at all. I am also happy to report, that all regular sections have been published in every issue, with the exception of the QSL Corner which as usual is published every second time. Furthermore it is my pleasure to tell you that all my co-editors have continued their work for our club, to the benefit for our members, which I appreciate very much, and I am sure that you do the same.

I have said that many times, that It is my aim to publish most news and articles in SWN, so that those of our members, who do not have access to the internet, will be able to read the same articles, as those who also can read our home page.

The cover in every Short Wave News has in my reporting period been printed in colours and at a single occasion 8 pages was in colour. I am sure, that you have recognized this, and we have also got some feed-back for it. It makes no sense to print the entire Short Wave News in colour because of the many lists and plain text. Just articles in which there are pictures will be printed in colour



Hella & Karl Helt, Arto Mujunen and Heikki Puranen, at the coffee table

Here follow a brief mentioning of the articles we have published from June/July 2014 to April 2015:

In the June/July issue we had the usual report containing three pages from our AGM recently held at Anker's home. In the same issue, we also had an interesting article written by Christian Ghibaudo, France about a visit to the Vatican Radio. Finally we also found space for the annual article about Trends in Tropical Bands Broadcasting 2014, made by Anker as usual which he has done for decades.

In the August issue we had no less than five pages with QSL-Corner as well as an update to the EDXC Conference to be held later in the year.

Now to the September/October issue we had another article written by Christian Ghibaudo about the radio in Monte Carlo. I appreciate very much. Anker had written an article about his loggings during his Caribbean Cruise that also was published in the same issue.

In the November issue we brought the complete schedule of the annual contest called "The Grand Tour across all Continents" as usual arranged by our Czech member, Jaroslav Bohac. Besides we had a small article about our visit to Kalundborg Radio, which by the way proved to be a great success with 9 members and 3 wives attending.

The December issue had an article about the recent held EDXC Conference near Nice in France, containing lots of pictures. We also published the annual article called Bandscan analysis of Radio Handbooks for 2015. Both articles were written by our chairman, Anker.

The January issue contained no articles, but as usual it was packed with interesting and up-to-date news

The February/March issue we had another article again written by our French member, Christian Ghibaudo, this time about Radio Europe 1 about its 60 years history. Furthermore for a long time we were able to publish the Mailbox section. I would like to have this section more often, but due to the very limited letters and emails, it is seldom that we have material enough.

The last issue in my report is the April; where we had the adv for the new DBS with examples as well as a very import message about the closure of our club, which we will hear more about later on this afternoon.

Before I end my report, I just want to tell you, that I am running out of picture to the front page. I have written about this subject before in my editorial, but unfortunately with less reaction. So I urge you again to send me a picture – or more – from you shack, so I can publish them on the front page of SWN.

To conclude my report I want to express a BIG THANK YOU to all the contributors as well as my co-editors for their good and stable work during the year. I always end my report to say, that without your work it is not possible at all to make a SWN with all useful information and not at least such a stable level. Thank you for listen to me, and let's get in touch!!

The treasurer, Bent Nielsen, then explained the audited account for 2014, which was published in SWN February/March page 3.



Rolf Myer, Klaus-Dieter Scholz and his wife.

Anker Petersen next proposed the Dissolution of the DSWCI not now, but by the end of year 2016. The four reasons are the following:

Reason 1. As I mentioned in my Chairman's report today, the trend continues with SW and MW stations closing down and replacing their broadcasting with live streaming on the internet. At the AGM last year, I gave a detailed report on this issue. But since then, Spain and Taiwan have reduced their international broadcasting considerably. Serbia is terminating all international broadcasting by the end of next month.

Thus the traditional programme listener can find fewer and fewer stations of interest in the publications of the Danish Shortwave Club International. The traditional DX-er, who doesn't care, which language is spoken, can still find something of interest on SW and MW. In year 2020, there will just be very few international and domestic broadcasters left on shortwaves. Thus we are coming close to the end of shortwave broadcasting.

Reason 2. Today seven out of our eight Board members have passed the age of 70. In November 2013 five of these became ill at the same time. Most are recovered today, but with increasing years, illness or smaller disabilities become more frequent. We also get more tired in our daily routines. All this means, that we have less time available for the Club work.

Reason 3. Our big problem is, that no younger member is prepared to be deputies and relieve us.

Reason 4. Next year it is 60 years ago, since the DSWCI was born. Thus we suggest, that we also have an AGM next year and celebrate this important jubilee, before the Club is dissolved. This will give us time to consider alternatives for still active members.

Thank you very much to the non-participating members, who have sent in their votes to this democratic voting! I have received written votes from 18 members in these countries: Australia,

Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom. I hereby hand over these votes to the Chairman of the AGM.

The Chairman of the AGM, Tibor Szilagyi, stated, that these 18 written votes together with the votes from present 16 members does not come up to the requirement in our Statutes Article 18, para 1, that "at least half of the members of the DSWCI are voting".

Anker Petersen then summoned an extraordinary AGM right after this ordinary AGM in accordance with Article 18, para 3.

The treasurer suggested that we keep the membership fees unchanged in Danish Kroner until further notice, which was accepted.

The present Board and substitutes were re-elected until the end of 2016: Anker Petersen, Kaj Bredahl Jørgensen, Bent Nielsen, Kurt Ærenlund Pedersen, Erik Køie, Noel Green, Torre Eklblom and Andreas Schmid with Torben Dahl and Simon-Peter Liehr as substitutes.

Our two auditors Torben Dahl and Vagn Nielsen were also re-elected.

The extraordinary Annual General Meeting

Article 18, para 2 states: "At this meeting the dissolution of the DSWCI can take place by a majority of %."

The treasurer announced that the Board at the latest at the next AGM, will inform, how it will dispose of the capital of the DSWCI.

The Chairman of the meeting then counted all the votes which were 33 YES for dissolution and 1 NO, i.e. 97% votes for the dissolution. He then declared that:

the DSWCI is dissolved by the end of 2016.



Toshimichi Ohtake gave his lesson

After the extraordinary AGM our Japanese member Toshimichi Ohtake was invited to tell about "DX in Japan, 2015". He is

secretary in the "Japan SW Club"(JSWC), which was established already in 1952 by two teenagers. The 82 years old chief editor was replaced in February 2015 by a younger chief editor and 5 sub-editors being in their 50'ies and 60'ies. JSWC publishes monthly a printed and an electronic DX-magazine with 10-15% in English and the rest in Japanese. They also have a Wavescan programme via Adventist World Radio every first Sunday.

The 350 Japanese members are from the low teens to 90'ies, but the majority are from the Broadcast Listeners boom in the 1970's. Most are in their 50'ies now. The increasing number of international stations broadcasting in Japanese is very popular. Besides local meetings, JSWC has a stand in the HAM Fair in Tokyo each year in August. In 2014 there were 33.000 guests!

The last speaker was our Finnish member Kari Kivekäs, Secretary General of the European DX Council (EDXC), which now has increased its membership to 15 European DX Clubs, 3 individual members and 2 observers. He appreciated the active membership from the DSWCI. The EDXC is trying to become more digital and has changed the former www.edxc.org to <https://edxcnews.wordpress.com/>. The EDXC is now also on Facebook.

The EDXC Country List has been updated from the Finnish version and is now on the webpage. A full invitation to the next EDXC Conference in September in St. Petersburg, Russia, will be published in a few weeks. The next EDXC Conferences are planned to be in Manchester in 2016 and 2017 in Finland.

These AGM's concluded with a very delicious dinner at Landgasthof Tarp with 24 participants.



Kari Kivekäs gave his lesson



Waiting for the groups photo outside the hotel