

## Brighton Sailing Club

VHF radios – review and event log by Paul Tofts

**1 The Club has one static and 3 mobile VHF radios;** in the last few years reliability had become increasingly poor, with only one handset working (and this unreliably); communication with the rescue boat has been seriously affected at times. Leading members in the Club declared that there should be 2 and ideally 3 mobile working reliable handsets, to enable efficient operation on the water and the beach. The Icom M33 sets had removable batteries which were unreliable. The M35 sets (bought in 2020 and 2021) had USB charger sockets and were also unreliable (4 failures in 2 years). Recent purchases have been the Standard Horizon 216 (made by Yaesu), which has an internal non-replaceable battery, and a completely sealed case, so we can probably expect good reliability. These sets float and have the M and M2 channels programmed.

### 2. Events are:

date	Hardware name	model	Serial no.	Action
2020	I47	Icom M33	0611947	Battery wrecked, replaced
2020	I33	Icom m25	06015133	Oct 16 <sup>th</sup> 2020: bought with 3 yr guarantee. R2. April 2022: failed; asked icom for refund
2020	I36	Icom m25	06015636	Sept 2020 bought with 5yr guarantee R3 July 2021 failed
2021	I70	Icom m25	65002970	Aug 27 <sup>th</sup> 2021 replacement (amz 5921) for I36 (amz order 6768) R3 April 2022: failed; amz agreed to refund
2021	S74	Standard HX210	1G443274	Aug 30 <sup>th</sup> 2021 bought; (amz 9505); 3yr waterproof guarantee; R1
2022	S73	Standard HX210	2D505573	April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2022 bought (amz 5156); 3yr waterproof guarantee; R3
2022	S46	Standard HX210	1N495046	April 13th 2022 bought (amz 0355); 3yr waterproof guarantee; R2

**3. Handset operation:** there is a separate Guidance for Users document, available in the rescue hut, and on [www.memsail.org.uk](http://www.memsail.org.uk).

**4. The static radio** (Raymarine RAY 54E) seems to be in good working order; it runs from a 12v DC supply. It has channels M1 and M2 programmed.

**5. Licensing:** I spoke to RYA officer Craig; his guidance note is on [www.memsail.org.uk](http://www.memsail.org.uk). He advised that to use the international marine channels as we do now (e.g. channel 77), each operator and each radio would have to be licensed, in order to stay on the right side of OFCOM. He advised we use channels M1 and M2 which are intended for leisure marine use. Even if we stick to these, in principle we still need a Coastal Station Radio Marina Licence (£75 pa), and if our radios have access to the marine channels (which they do) we also need a Ship Portable Radio Licence for each radio.

M1 (sometimes called M) and M2 are available on all our radios. M2 is preferred. (The Icom radios did not have these channels in explicitly; M1 is called 37a, and M2 is called P4)

**6. Operating procedure.** We should be naming the called station first, so if I am calling Dave then I say “Dave, this is Paul”. This is in the RYA VHF handbook, and confirmed by our Commodore who has a marine VHF licence.

**7. Ongoing support.** Relevant documents are on [www.memsail.org.uk](http://www.memsail.org.uk), and may be moved to BSC website. These include instruction manuals and RYA guidance.

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