



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

APRIL 2024 – No 980

General Club Business: secretary@srcc.uk
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 Club Website: <https://www.srcc.uk>

Honorary Secretary & Editor:
 Quin Collier G3WRR
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MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm
Meetings at St Paul's URC, Croham Park Avenue, Croydon CR2 7HF

1st MEETING Monday 8 April: Annual General Meeting
2nd MEETING Monday 22 April: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

SRCC COMMITTEE 2023/24

Chairman & Publicity	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Vice Chairman	G4LZE Colin Lugard	07533 174388
Hon. Secretary & Newsletter Editor	G3WRR Quin Collier	020 8653 6948
Treasurer, Membership & Liaison	G4FFY Ray Howells	07921 567651
Events	G6JXA Kim Brown	07812 735507
Webmaster	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143
Trophy Manager	G7RUX Jason Gardner	07515 357630
VHF NFD Co-ordinator (Co-opted)	G3ZPB Peter Burton	07989 557888

EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends, welcome to the April SRCC Newsletter.

Most of us just enjoy getting on with whatever aspects of our hobby appeal to us, with minimal opportunity to influence things at either a local or national level. This month we have the opportunity to do both. At the local level we have the SRCC AGM, and at the national level the opportunity (for those of us – the majority - who are RSGB members) to vote on-line in the RSGB elections. Information on each of these is provided later.

It has been a busy month here at Mission Control Norwood with my annual Jolly Jaunt to the Isle of Wight for the Commonwealth Contest: and my elder granddaughter Francesca (a.k.a. Moo) who has just arrived to spend part of Easter with my son and I – should be fun if we don't weaken....

So have an enjoyable Easter, and let's move on to the interesting stuff.....

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

March A meeting (4th) This was the Spring Surplus Equipment Sale. There was a smaller quantity of gear for sale - and fewer sellers - than has traditionally been the case. This reflects a pattern that has been visible for a while, possibly reflecting changes in the hobby. Nevertheless, gear from G4FDN, G8MNY and existing SRCC stock was sold, resulting in total takings of £121, of which £40 (including donations from members) goes into club funds. Gareth G4XAT did his usual knowledgeable and persuasive salesman act, but it was all change in the money handling department in the absence of Peter G3ZPB and Ray G4FFY who had been unable to attend, Paul G7VAK and Quin G3WRR taking on the roles instead.

March B meeting (18th) This followed the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format. We had a repeat visit from Ian Mallinson, an ex-CBer, who has now acquired one of the fairly up-market Yaesu rigs and is now learning to drive it. We were also visited by Eddie Wesson a youngster who is getting interested in amateur radio via the CB route: he was accompanied by his father who was and ex-CBer himself many years ago. We hope to see one or both again.

FUTURE MEETINGS

April A meeting (8th) (Please note that this is on the second, rather than first, Monday as the first is Easter Monday Bank Holiday). Annual General Meeting. As mentioned earlier, this is a formal opportunity to have your say what you think about the club and what it does now, and to suggest possible changes. It includes a review of 2023/24 activities and also the election of club officers for 2024/25. Forms allowing members to nominate the Secretary and Committee members were e-mailed out recently, but in case you have mislaid them, a copy of the forms are attached at Annex A. When completed, these can be handed in right up until the start of the AGM. The agenda and notes of last year's AGM will follow shortly. Hope to see you there!

May A meeting (13th) Again this will be the second Monday of the month as a result of the high concentration of Bank Holidays at this time of year! The focus will be VHF National Field Day which takes place this year on the weekend of 6th / 7th July. It will open with a replay of one of the RSGB "Tonight at Eight" video series describing what VHF NFD is all about and showing a video of a Scottish group's participation in 2023. This should give previous non-attenders a chance to see what it is like and consider whether they might like to join the usual suspects in 2024! This will be followed by a discussion of SRCC's intended participation in 2024. (For the last decade or so our activity has been from a site on Warlingham Ridge as part of North-East Surrey Contest Group - a loose confederation of SRCC, Coulsdon ATS (CATS), Addiscombe ARC (in earlier years) and a few non-club aligned individuals and we expect this to be the case this year too). It will be a chance to plot out what we intend to do, what section to enter, etc. and put together outline plans while we still have eight weeks to hammer out the details.

June A meeting (3rd) Subject to confirmation this will be on the subject of nanoVNAs, which are proving to be very useful and flexible items of test gear and are now owned by a fair number of SRCC members. It is expected to open with a demonstration of their operation (what they can do and how to drive them), followed by a discussion for those already partially "skilled in the art" on how to upload new software versions.

B meetings, Unless, specifically advised otherwise, these will continue to take place on the third Monday of the month (though April "B" is on the 4th Monday) and will follow the current Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format.

73, Quin G3WRR

RSGB ELECTIONS – YOUR PART IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS!

Thanks to Alun G4WGE (our RSGB District representative) for the reminder that the 2024 RSGB AGM takes place on-line on 13th April. Details are available at:

<https://rsgb.org/main/blog/news/gb2rs/headlines/2024/03/15/rsgb-2024-agm/> . Even if you do not take part in the meeting on-line, it is possible to vote on certain issues on-line (with a cut-off date of 11th April) and this is described at: <https://rsgb.org/main/agm-2024/cast-your-vote/> The issues that are most likely to impact us relate to the election of Board Members. Profiles for the candidates are shown at: <https://rsgb.org/main/agm-2024/candidates-for-endorsement-as-nominated-directors/> , and this may provide guidance if you have no direct knowledge of the individuals concerned. The options available are yes / no / abstain, which seems to cover off all the possibilities!

I would encourage those of us who are RSGB members to have their say...

73, Quin G3WRR

COMMONWEALTH CONTEST (A.K.A BERU) 2024 BY QUIN G3WRR

The February issue included an item describing my preparations for this year's Commonwealth Contest from the Isle of Wight. Now it's all done and dusted (although perhaps done and muddled might be a better term this year) this item closes off the loop by relating how it all went.

Having packed the trusty (but now seriously aged) Volvo estate the night before (apart from a few expensive bits of gear such as the K3 which went in on Friday morning), after leaving Mission Control Norwood at about 6.30am on the Friday I took the 8.30am ferry from Portsmouth to Fishbourne and reached Brighstone Holiday Centre on the South-West facing side of the island at around 10.30am. I had been advised by Charlotte (the lady who runs the site) that it wouldn't be possible to drive the car to the chalet we use because of the saturated ground: She wasn't kidding.....it was possible to push the stakes about 9 inches into the ground before needing to use the sledge hammer to finish them off, but getting them out was really hard because of the suction – finally overcome by a big heave and accompanied by a loud sucking noise. But Charlotte and her son Barney helped me carry all the gear round from the car park to the chalet. (Luckily the days of using AR88s in such events are long past, otherwise we would have been in real trouble).

I had decided not to use the usual Titan DX all band vertical this year as it is quite large and fiddly to set up – and I have been unable to persuade it provide the lower SWR promised on all bands. So instead a Hy-Gain 14AVQ multiband vertical (only about 20ft tall and much lighter) was used for 40/20/15/10m. This proved to be very much easier to erect and, having carefully followed the manufacturer's guidance of dimensions, provided a usable SWR on all bands without use of the internal ATU in the K3. This was backed up on 80m by a vertical of just under 40ft comprising a length of wire taped to a DX Commander mast (as advertised recently by a well-known dealer in Radcom). This is made of a composite material in ten sliding sections (rather like Russian Dolls), it is light, shrinks down to about 2.5ft in length for transit and is excellent value for money at just under £60. The only downside was that it is pretty whippy and my initial Cunning Plan to use it as part of an inverted L proved unrealistic. Although it is about 35ft tall when extended I managed to sneak about another five feet of antenna length by putting its base on a sort of raised patio outside the chalet and the antenna feed point at ground level below. (The picture below may make this comprehensible ...). Use of an automatic ATU not only avoided fiddling with the length to get a good SWR on 80m (always a time consuming and sometimes frustrating task) but allowed its use on the other bands.

So, all set up and feeling smug with antennas and gear ready to go, it was time for a meal the Three Bishops (not an ecclesiastical establishment but a pub) in Brighstone village. Fortunately it was much quieter than last time we visited it before the IOTA contest last July and a good meal was delivered and eaten with no undue delay. On return to the chalet (it's surprising how dark it gets when you're away from the likes of Croydon but a torch had been remembered this time) I noted that the wire of 80m vertical had sagged drastically but repair was stood over until Saturday morning. "And so to bed" to quote Samuel Pepys, but probably in less comfort than Mr Pepys. It was seriously cold so I slept fully clothed in my sleeping bag. Come the morning the vertical was easily fixed: keeping the mast extended relies on friction between the sections, and I had simply not pulled them apart firmly enough to provide sufficient friction. More elbow grease, and taping up the joints, ensured no further problems.

The contest kicked off at 1000UTC with a promising start on 10m with 5Z (Kenya). 5B (Cyprus) and 9H (Malta) "in the book" in the first quarter hour – but after that 10m, of which great things had been expected because of the state of the sunspot cycle, proved disappointing with only a total of nine contacts on that band overall. Between 1030 and 2000 activity mainly alternated between 20m & 15m with the greatest number of contacts being from VE (Canada) with occasional others including VK (Australia), 6Y (Jamaica), ZF (Cayman Islands), VU (India) and ZD7 (St. Helena) Following a 2.5 hour sleep, the focus of activity had changed to 40m & 80m yielding a further 32 contacts, again largely with Canada. After a further, somewhat extended, sleep (I'm getting old...) from 0015 until 0615, it was just a case of mopping up until the close at 0959 which yielded a further 16 contacts across all five bands including the only contact with ZL (New Zealand) on 40m at 0625. Looking back at the log is a reminder that one of the key features of keeping the contact rate up is changing bands frequently. It shows 35 band changes over the 24 hours – many of which yielded only a single contact – and there were no doubt more "invisible" changes from which no contacts resulted. The total tally was 129 contacts (my best so far) from 14 Commonwealth countries including all continents except South America and Antarctica.....

This year I had decided to stop overnight on Sunday rather than rushing home that evening so after another sleep, the station was dismantled and the car reloaded before another meal at the Three Bishops in the evening. (where this time a lady was playing the harp – a nice touch). The meal was certainly welcome, as my examination of the weekend's residue showed that between Friday evening and Sunday evening I had eaten only three Pot Noodles and two Bovril sandwiches (although accompanied by large quantities of tea). After a proper night's sleep the journey back across the wild Solent was uneventful and I was back home by about noon on the Monday – but the car remained loaded until the following day...Roll on BERU 2025...

My overall view of the event this year – which seems to align with the general view from contestants - was that 10m and 80m (but particularly 10m) had been disappointing with the majority of traffic on 40m, 20m & 15m which were in good shape. The general view (largely from operators more experienced than myself) was that this was a result of the high SFI having been offset by high A & K indices...hum ho, that's HF propagation for you....

Our fellow SRCC member Alun G4WGE was also on in the contest from a site near the River Severn and made 173 contacts. Also active was Mike G3VYI (whom some of you have met) who is an inveterate BERU "Traveller" and was this year operating from a site near the sea in Jamaica using the call 6Y6YI (try decoding that one when you've had no sleep...). The pictures below show two very different sites – the one I used on the Isle of Wight and the one used by Mike on Jamaica - make - make your own mind up on which you would prefer!



G3WRR SITE ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

...AND 6Y6YI SITE IN JAMAICA!

AFS SUPERLEAGUE 2023/4 – OVERALL RESULTS

Earlier issues of the Newsletter have encouraged SRCC members to take part in the RSGB AFS Superleague and the eight individual AFS (Affiliated Societies) Contests of which it is composed. The 2023/24 series is now complete and the individual and overall results are listed below, with one or more SRCC members active in five of the eight individual events.

CONTEST	POSITION	ENTRANT(S)
Overall	26/61	
6m	19/24	G3WRR, G4WGE
70cm	19/32	G3SRC, G3ZPB
160m	24/56	G3SRC
80/40m cw	31/35	G3SRC, G4WGE
80/40m data	35/44	G4WGE
80/40m ssb	33/53	G3SRC, G3ZPB, G4WGE

73, Quin G3WRR.

TED JONES G3EUE (SILENT KEY)

Following the sad news that Ted had passed away peacefully on 24th January. It had been hoped that a good quality “in memoriam” write-up of his life and contribution to SRCC would be included in this issue. As a result of an exchange of e-mails with Ted over a period of five or so years, it is clear that there is a fair bit of information available but teasing it all out is taking a significant time. As it’s important to do the job properly, this will be stood over till next month. Meanwhile, if you have any pictures or snippets of information, please let me know and I will include them.

73, Quin G3WRR

DOVER ARC RALLY 24TH MARCH 2024 BY RAY G4FFY

For the previous two years we attended the Hamzilla Rally which was organised by the Dover DARC. This year they returned to their local Community Centre, St Radigunds in Dover, for a smaller event like CATS Bazaar.



ST RADIGUNDS COMMUNITY CENTRE (PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE STREET VIEW)

We hired three tables which we filled with the goodies remaining from the Club, Maurice G4DDY, John G3ENG and also Martin Farley G3DFD.



RAY G4FFY, COLIN G4LZE AND QUIN G3WRR MADE THE JOURNEY DOWN TO DOVER ARRIVING AROUND 08:30AM



QUIN'S CAR FULL ON THE WAY DOWN



..... BUT MUCH EMPTIER ON LEAVING!



VIEWS OF THE FLOOR AREA TOWARDS CLEAR-UP TIME (EVENT ENDED c. 12:30pm)

The visit was very successful, loads of the components were sold, and a lot of the Silent Key equipment re-homed. One item was Maurice’s 70cm 35W FM Mobile which had a very frayed mic lead. It was sold to Edmund M0MNG – part of the ICQ Podcast Team (<https://www.icqpodcast.com/>) led by Martin M1MRB – who had a table alongside us. By chance, I was with friends last Saturday (30th Mar) walking part of the South Downs Way and came across Martin and Edmund parked up on the downs at Chantry Hill (near Storrington). Edmund was taking part in an event called 433MHz Alive and was using Maurice’s rig working Gosport and Heathrow areas.

Our takings were £191 less the table costs of £45 leaving some £146 for club funds and some out of pocket expenses. It was an enjoyable day out and worth doing. Many thanks to Colin G4LZE and Quin G3WRR for their time, effort and storage, the Club is indebted (*and not forgetting Ray.- Ed.*).

Ray G4FFY

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – JANUARY 2024

Five entries were received for the February League Table, the same number as in January. The monthly results are as shown below:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	90	2	39	223
G3ZPB	27	1	27	83
G4FYF	18	1		40
M0LEP	10	1		22
G3WRR	5	1	6	18

G4FFY and G3ZPB retain first and second positions: G3WRR moves down two places to bottom place, and as a consequence G4FYF and M0LEP both move up one place to third and fourth.

The following notes come from the entrants...

G4FFY: *I mainly operated in the 2m and 70cm FT8 AC's and 2m & 70cm UKAC's, plus on HF in the first of the RSGB FT4 AC Contest. Also did some HF FT8 operation using only 10W. 10m was also good though mainly used the normal 100W!! Overall a low activity month Amateur Radio wise though doubled my Jan 2024 score!! As of end-February 2024, I'm now on 161 DXCC's, one added with the working of St. Helena ZD7CTO on 10m FT8 on 21st Feb 2024.*

G3ZPB: *83 points - all except for a Special Event call were made during contests; 70cms AFS, 70cms FT8 and HF FT4. No special DXCC this month.*

G4FYF: *Another leisurely month dabbling with the airwaves. Action spread between 7, 14, & 28 MHz.*

M0LEP: *I've not been on air much in February, but here's my entry for the month. Most of this has been SOTA chasing, with ten metres bringing in just about everything more than a thousand miles away, and the occasional rather closer ground-wave contacts, too. SOTA is having a Ten Metres Challenge this year, so I hope I'll be able to add some more interesting DX using the band later in the year.*

G3WRR: *A few points made using the club call in the 70cm AFS contest.*

The cumulative scores are shown below. No change in relative positions in February – however Ray G4FFY extends his percentage lead over Peter G3ZPB from 165% to 222%.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4FFY	114	223											337
G3ZPB	69	83											152
G3WRR	63	18											81
G4FYF	28	40											68
M0LEP	14	22											36

73, Quin G3WRR SRCC Leaguemeister

SRCC NETS

The following is a list of structured nets on which members of SRCC meet regularly. They are sometimes joined by members of other local clubs, who are always made most welcome. The net is not usually led by a nominated controller, but stations normally transmit cyclically in the chronological order in which they sign in. If any member wishes further occasions and frequencies to be added to the table, please let me know at q.g.collier@btinternet.com.

BAND/FREQUENCY/MODE	DAY OF WEEK	START TIME (clock)
160m / 1905 kHz / LSB	Sunday	9.30 am
80m / 3710 kHz (+/- QRM) LSB	Monday	9.00 am
10m / 28.078 MHz / JS8	Wednesday	10.00 am

6m / 51.55 MHz / FM	Tuesday	8.00 pm
4m / 70.30 MHz / FM	Thursday	8.00 pm
2m / 144.6125 MHz / Digital Voice	Friday	7.30 pm
2m / 145.35 MHz / FM	Friday	8.00 pm

* The Friday night Digital Voice net usually starts with D-star.
 In addition to the regular Club Nets, several members monitor the local repeater channels, particularly GB3XP (145.6875MHz 82.5Hz CTCSS FM).

THAT'S ALL FOLKS.....

Thanks all for this month. Inputs from members are always welcome so if you are feeling creative, please do let me have something to include.

73, Quin G3WRR
Secretary and Newsletter Editor

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NOMINATION FOR HONORARY SECRETARY - 2024 / 2025

(Please return to Hon. Sec., Quin Collier, G3WRR before the start of the AGM).

I.....wish to nominate.....for
the position of SRCC **Honorary Secretary** for 2024 / 2025

I agree to stand and serve if elected.

Signed.....Date.....

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NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER - 2024 / 2025

(Please return to Hon. Sec., Quin Collier, G3WRR before the start of the AGM).

I.....wish to nominate.....for
the position of **Committee Member** on the SRCC Committee for 2024 / 2025.

I agree to stand and serve if elected.

Signed.....Date.....