

SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

DECEMBER 2022 - No 964

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

General Club Business:

secretary@srcc.uk

Membership/Treasurer:

membership@srcc.uk

Newsletter articles/distribution:

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Club Equipment Loan:

equipment@srcc.uk

Club Website:

https://www.srcc.uk

Honorary Secretary & Editor

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MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1st AND 3rd MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

Meetings at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT

1_{st} MEETING Monday 12 December: Inter-Club Quiz (hosted by S&CRS)
2_{nd} MEETING Monday 19 December: Christmas Social

SRCC COMMITTEE 2022/23

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	01732 357474
Events	G6JXA Kim Brown	07812 735507
Webmaster	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143
Committee Member (Co-opted)	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737 551413
Committee Member (Co-opted)	G7RUX Jason Gardner	07515 357630

EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends,

As if the awful news in last month's Newsletter of the death of Maurice G4DDY was not bad enough, it is now my sad duty to notify you of the passing of Maurice's widow, Prim G4CCY on 28th November. I understand that she died peacefully in her sleep having contracted a double infection. In the last Newsletter I stated my intention to produce a sort of "In Memoriam" item for Maurice but it now seems appropriate to extend that to cover both Maurice and Prim. Thanks to those who responded to the request for information – but if any members have additional information related to Prim, or to them both as a couple, I would be very pleased to receive it. But for now, with thanks to Steve G4FYF, there follows a nice picture of them together.



MAURICE G4DDY (looking at camera) and PRIM G4CCY (facing right, in blue top) VISITING CRYSTAL PALACE TV TRANSMITTER STATION IN 2014

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

<u>November A meeting (7th November)</u> This was the annual Construction Contest. Nine separate items, or in some cases groups of items, were presented as follows:

- 1. Quin G3WRR balanced ATU for 160m/80m in CW Field Day, where matching 160m can be a problem because of the low antenna impedance. Based on simple parallel tuned circuit design and using the coil out of T1154 transmitter PA section.
- 2. **Quin G3WRR** footswitch: entered purely for fun, its sole claim to fame being that the base is made from a discarded wooden toilet seat. Demonstrates the submitter's commitment to recycling....
- 3. **Paul G7VAK** wideband VHF/UHF antenna, based on design from USA. Elements are 2 off 12" pizza plates. Good from 245MHz 2450MHz. SWR on 2m & 70cm around 2.5/1 but can be improved by tweaking spacing. Proof of pudding demonstrated by displaying signals on spectrum analyser.
- 4. **John G8MNY –** two studio terminal impedance 100 Ω studios A & B outputs can be joined via resistors.
- 5. **John G8MNY –** stereo deck.
- 6. **John G8MNY –** power supply and control unit can control two 0.5W transmitters at remote transmit site.
- 7. **John G8MNY –** mixer for various audio channels.
- 8. **Gareth G4XAT –** enhanced version of last year's winning multi-band (70MHz 5.7GHz) / multi-mode entry based on the BATC Langstone / Portsdown suite. Enhancements include:
 - smaller touch screen
 - nickel sprayed control box
 - removal of some original components from box and externalisation of connections to allow improved flexibility
 - ability to output data as bitstream
 - inclusion of test facilities (eg. RF power meter / noise factor meter).

- 9. **Gareth G4XAT –** grouping of large number of microwave items under the title "Adventures with microwaves". Included were:
 - 1W 10GHz portable station
 - 2W 24GHz portable station
 - 24GHz QRO dish with SMA transition (20kW ERP!)
 - G4XAT designed "Tilt-O-Matic" mount
 - "Weatherbox" propagation prediction device
 - 50W 3.4GHz amplifier
 - 10W 5.7GHz amplifier
 - 122GHZ Cassegrain reflector / mount / adjuster
 - Front end / antenna for receiving GB3JV beacon
 - 3 band (9/6/3cm) dish feed
 - 3 way RF switching unit to simplify equipment reconfiguration.

(Gareth has been requested to give SRCC a dedicated presentation on item 9.....)

Prizes were awarded as follows:

First prize: Gareth G4XAT - item 9: Coronation Cup and small financial award

Second prize: John G8MNY: item 7 - Basil Wardman Tankard and small financial award

Third prize: Gareth G4XAT – item 8: small financial award.

Some pictures from the Construction Contest follow:





G7VAK DESCRIBES WIDEBAND VHF / UHF ANTENNA

G8MNY WITH PSU / CONTROL UNIT



G4XAT WITH PART OF "ADVENTURES WITH MICROWAVES" GEAR



G3WRR DISPLAYS 160/80m ATU

.... AND THE WINNERS!



G4XAT RECEIVES FIRST PRIZE FROM SRCC CHAIRMAN G3MCX



G8MNY
RECEIVES
SECOND
FIRST PRIZE
FROM SRCC
CHAIRMAN
G3MCX

FUTURE MEETINGS

<u>December A meeting (12th December)</u> Please note that this will be on the **second Monday of the month** rather than the first. It will be the annual Inter Club Quiz (the first one since 2019 due to COVID) and will this year be hosted by Sutton & Cheam RS – hence the (for SRCC) non-standard date. It will be held at the 7th Banstead Scout HQ – further details are shown at: https://scrs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Scout-HQ-Location-1.pdf

Traditionally this has been a three-way play-off between SRCC, S&CRS and CATS. However, Chris M0TCH (the organiser at S&CRS) is intending to invite the Dorking and Crystal Palace clubs along as well which should add to the fun. Clubs may field more than one team (typically of 4/5 members each). SRCC have done so in the past so why not have a talk to some of your fellow members so that SRCC can enter two (or more...) teams? Or we could put teams together on the night. But even if you are not actively participating, please come along to observe and cheer on your team(s) (in a genteel manner of course). Modesty suggests that I shouldn't really mention this, but that isn't going to stop me...SRCC won the last three pre-COVID quizzes so it would be nice if we could maintain the tradition! I'm not sure what S&CRS have in mind for questions but usually these have not been an orgy of high technology, including a mix of technical, amateur radio general interest and general knowledge.

<u>December B meeting (19th December)</u> This will be the usual pre-Christmas Social with light refreshments, soft drinks (also possibly limited quantities of harder drinks) and mince pies – plus Dyson to clear up the crumbs afterwards. After last year's experiment of adding custard to the party (for the mince pies), further culinary delights are being considered for 2022....

<u>January A meeting (9th January 2023)</u> Video evening – detail to be confirmed. Please note that this is the second Monday of the month and not the first!

<u>B meetings</u> Unless advised otherwise these will be on the third Monday of the month though January will be held on the 4th Monday – 23rd Jan. Will consist of the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY and his test equipment.

73, Quin G3WRR

FUNERAL OF MAURICE FAGG, G4DDY

The funeral of our dear friend Maurice, which took place on 21st November at North-East Surrey Crematorium, was attended by over a dozen members of SRCC and their families. Taken together with members of his family and friends and with members of SMEE (Society of Model and Experimental Engineers) of which Maurice was a keen and active member, this meant that there was an excellent (and well deserved) turn out. Eulogies were given by a member of Maurice's family and by Ray G4FFY to cover off his amateur radio interests. The text of the latter will be posted on the SRCC website shortly.

After the funeral the attendees were welcomed at the Toby Carvery in Mitcham by Maurice's family – notably by his daughter Liz - where, in addition to chatting over our reminiscences, we indulged in drinks and an excellent buffet. Pictures from the Crematorium are shown below:





IT'S AFS TIME AGAIN.....

Regular readers will be aware that around this time of year the Newsletter includes a reminder about the Affiliated Societies Contests. This year is no exception, and I will do so again as a reminder, and to make newer members aware.

Every year the RSGB runs a set of contests, currently eight, each year for its Affiliated Societies (of which the SRCC is one). These cover a range of bands and modes between 160m and 70cm, thus providing something of interest for a wide selection of amateurs. Their focus is on the performance of clubs as teams, rather than on individual "star stations". For this reason, club entries are based on teams of up to four stations. Clubs can enter as many stations as they like in each event, but their entries are grouped by the RSGB Contest Committees into teams of up to four. As SRCC is not a particularly contest-oriented club I am not aware of us ever having got more than one team on – however some of the more contest-active clubs have in the past managed to field up to five teams! Each of these contests stands in its own right, but in addition, the results of the individual contests are aggregated together by the RSGB (in a manner that is fair but not easily explained...) to form an additional and separate event – the AFS Super League.

This year (or, more accurately, this cycle since the series runs between late 2022 and early 2023) there are eight contests in the series, running between 50MHz AFS in September 2022 and 432MHz AFS in February 2023. By the time you read this, we will be four contests into the 2022/23 cycle and SRCC will have managed to get at least one station on in each of them. On the basis of the results published so far, we were 15th out of 23 (two stations) in the Local Club section of 50MHz AFS, 26th out of 32 (one station) in the Club Calls Contest and a disappointing 15th out of 18 (one station) in the 70MHz AFS. However, our overall result so far in the Super League (14th out of 33 in the Local Club section) is more promising.

The reason for publishing this item now is to point out that the remaining five contests in the cycle take place between this weekend and the first week of February 2023, and – if you hadn't guessed – to encourage members to participate! This could either be full participation including log submission or just coming on to work other club members – but if you do the latter, it's generally regarded as poor form to work **only** your own members, so working a few other stations as well would be good. Certainly, contesting is not to everyone's taste and there is no pressure at all on you to do so – but if you have a bit of spare time on the dates / times listed below, why not come on and work a few? You might find something new that you like within the hobby! The details of the remaining contests are shown below, along with a link to the rules:

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME (UTC)	MODE(S)
Saturday	8/1/23	80-40m AFS	1300-1700	CW
		(CW)		
Sunday	16/1/23	80-40m AFS	1300-1700	RTTY, PSK
		(data)		
Saturday	22/1/23	80-40m AFS	1300-1700	SSB
		(SSB)		
Sunday	5/2/23	432MHz AFS	0900-1300	All (but mainly SSB)

Rules are at the following URL: https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2022/rSL-thisandnext.shtml

If you are interested but find the rules (or any other aspect) a bit puzzling, please feel free to contact me at q.g.collier@btinternet.com

CATS BAZAAR 2022

Until COVID came along and disrupted our lives, one of the regular features of amateur radio in our local area was the annual CATS Bazaar, a sort of smaller version of the Kempton Park Rally – plenty of stands for clubs, small traders and individuals but without the larger dealers such as Moonraker, Martin Lynch, etc. With the easement of COVID restrictions, CATS Bazaar was back for the first time in around three years on 20th November, and as before held at the Oasis Academy in Old Coulsdon. SRCC took two tables – which were only just enough to display all our wares. In fact there were four separate groups of kit on offer – SRCC owned stuff, G4XAT owned stuff, SK stuff from Maurice G4DDY and SK stuff from John G8IYS. This made keeping track of which group a particular item belonged to so that the incoming filthy lucre could be assigned correctly interesting – but Ray G4FFY's manual tracking system did the biz splendidly: and for the first time we were able to take card payment. This was a useful counter to the punters who came up with variants of "I'm interested but I haven't got the cash"!

There were enough largish cars available to transport all the gear to site without overflowing: most of the stuff was physically quite small (although a tad heavy in some cases) – but a 21 element 70cm beam with a boom at least twelve feet long caused a bit of a challenge (it attracted several bemused stares from the public while being transported on my roof rack) with transport and display.... Support from SRCC members was excellent with Quin G3WRR, Peter G3ZPB, Pat G4FDN, Ray G4FFY, Colin G4LZE and Gareth G4XAT (with apologies to anyone missed off the list) taking turns applying a mixture of bonhomie and hard sell to the punters. John G8MNY was also there with a table selling mostly small stuff (components and the like) and was doing good business.

Although the numbers were perhaps a bit smaller than pre-COVID (perhaps folks haven't really got back into the habit of going out – something we have also noticed in attendance at club meetings) there were still plenty of potential customers. Our total takings on the stand (thanks to Ray for the spreadsheeting) were £973.56 (I wonder who sold an item for 56p?!) and the overall benefit to club funds is over £370.

Overall, a tiring but enjoyable and friendly day – the following pictures (courtesy of G8NNT) give a flavour of it!



RAY G4FFY and PETER G3ZPB ENCOURAGING A BROWSER...



JOHN G8MNY and SOME OF HIS STOCK

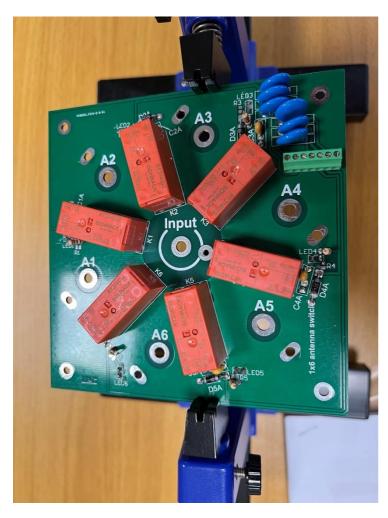


RAY G4FFY and COLIN G4LZE ATTEMPTING TO ENTICE CASH LADEN CUSTOMERS

73, Quin G3WRR

2023 CONSTRUCTION PROJECT?

Because of the constraints imposed by COVID, SRCC has not been able to run a Construction Project for a year or two – and then one potential project had to be ruled out because of semiconductor supply problems. However, many thanks are due to Pat G4FDN for identifying a potential project that does not seem to suffer in that way. It is a six way remotely controllable antenna switch. An example was shown at the November Construction Contest (see below).



Kits are available from various sources on the internet including:

https://www.aliexpress.com/item/1005001270421803.html?spm=a2g0o.productlist.0.0.68c810c6K aEDeA&algo_pvid=2c49f50a-b451-4cca-ba8a-c404acaeffc5&algo_exp_id=2c49f50a-b451-4cca-ba8a-c404acaeffc5-

<u>0&pdp_ext_f=%7B%22sku_id%22%3A%2212000015534540686%22%7D&pdp_npi=2%40dis%21GBP%2121.88%2119.69%21%21%21%21%21%400b0a187916694654218136830ee1ee%2112</u>000015534540686%21sea&curPageLogUid=SNn8iNs1t9BN

Prices vary somewhat, but Pat feels that around £29 - £32 should be possible. However, it should be noted that these prices do not include, case, SO239 RF or power / control connectors.

This does seem to be a useful accessory to have and the specification (isolation, loss, etc) looks good – see URL above! If you are interested, please let me know (q.g.collier@btintenrnet.com) so that we can establish whether there is sufficient interest to proceed as a club project.

HERE AND THERE

A couple of items this month:

Our colleagues at Cray Valley Radio Society are running a face-to-face Foundation course in February 2023. More information as follows:

"Hello SRCC.

I write from Cray Valley Radio Society in Eltham to a fellow SET club.

We are running a face-to-face Foundation course on Sat's 4/11 Feb 2023 in Eltham SE9- cover cost with exam £43. If any of your members, families of friends prefer a taught course – we have some places left. To book go to training tab in for application form.

https://www.cvrs.org/training/foundation-licence

Hope all well at SRCC - regards, Dave Shaw G4NOW CVRS Course Organiser 07956834350"

If you or any of your family / friends are interested, please respond as above.

Thanks to Pat G4FDN for forwarding the following URL:

https://www.docdroid.net/Q1IBoyi/crnews1222-pdf

Very interesting to see the hobby through the eyes of another country – and most impressive! You may have noted that the Editor is Steve Wright EI5DD who is a fellow SRCC member. Although from a Republic of Ireland background he lived in Croydon for many years – through which connection I have known him for over 50 years.... 73, Quin G3WRR

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE - OCTOBER 2022

The number of entries received for this month's League Table was eight (the same as in September), including one null entry. The monthly results are shown below. Relative positions have changed little since September – and what change there was occurred among the "top end crew": Ian MOCGF moves up two places to first, displacing Ray G4FFY and Peter G3ZPB by one place each to second and third respectively. The combined October scores for the three leaders were 49% up on those in September, suggesting that the alternative attractions of the summer were now past history. Interestingly a similar upturn between September and October was noticeable last year. What is less clear is why the three leaders' combined October league scores this year were around 5% down on the equivalent last year, at a time when the solar flux index has risen from around 85 to around 135, which might be expected to result in considerably improved conditions on the HF bands.... Hum ho, I guess that's one of the things that makes the hobby interesting!

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0CGF	85	0	67	237
G4FFY	74	3	32	186
G3ZPB	63	0	29	155
G4FYF	29	1	0	60
MOLEP	14	4	0	36
G3WRR	10	0	10	30
G3EUE	6	0	0	12
G4LZE	0	0	0	0

The great majority of lan's scoring contacts were made on the HF bands, with a further handful of Europeans on 6m. The largest number (26%) were on 20m, followed by 40m & 10m (16% each), 15m (12%), 80m (9%), 12m (7%), 17m (6%) and 6m (5%). The majority (86%) were made using SSB with 12% on FT8 - and 2% (two contacts) on CW! I believe this is the first time Ian has made scoring league table contacts on CW... It is worth noting that one of the latter was with ZP (Paraguay) – certainly far from common - and the other with D6 (Comoros Islands) – seriously rare. This demonstrates one of the benefits of using CW...but I would say that wouldn't I? A potentially interesting aside is that the Comoros is where the majority of surviving coelacanths (a very rare type of fish that was believed to have been extinct for millions of years until 1938 when they were rediscovered) are resident. However, there is no suggestion that the DX end operator was a coelacanth, as it is understood that they find using morse keys quite tricky. All continents except Antarctica were worked, with Europe predictably dominant at 45%. Apart from the Comoros, other interesting countries included were CE9 (Easter Island), D4 (Cape Verde Islands), FG (Guadeloupe) and PZ (Suriname).

85% of Ray's scoring contacts were on the HF bands, and the remaining 15% on VHF. He lost a certain amount of October operating time due to his trip to the USA, but nevertheless took advantage of good HF conditions to pick up four new DXCCs – TY (Benin), D4 (Cape Verde Islands), S3 (Bangladesh) and V2 (Antigua and Barbuda) on 10m during the CQ WW SSB contest, which is always a good source of interesting and often rare countries. He managed scoring contacts from all continents except Antarctica. Europe was dominant at 54%, followed by Asia and Africa (14% each), North America (10%), South America (6%) and Oceania (2%). 42% were on 20m followed by 10m (36%), 60m (11%), 80m (6%), 40m & 12m (3% each). All of his VHF contacts were made on 2m using FT8 in the RSGB FT8 contest with the exception of one on SSB and were from four Western European DXCCs.

Peter's score this month was nearly 50% up on that of September which itself had been a substantial increase on those in the period between March and August. He describes it as an "all-digital month". He made just under half of his scoring contacts on 40m & 20m in the RSGB FT4 contest and also took advantage of the improved 10m conditions to go DX chasing. He worked all continents except Antarctica, including a wide range of interesting destinations including VK (Australia), ZL (New Zealand), BY (China), EP (Iran), TY (Benin), FK8 (New Caledonia) as well as a number of the Central Asian Republics such as Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. He also had scoring contacts with 13 big squares in the RSGB 70cm FT8 contest. Peter notes that he now has an improved 80m antenna: using this in forthcoming FT4 contests should allow him to make contacts with some of the nearer European countries that are less easy to work on 40m & 20m due to the skip distance.

Steve spent most of his time on 10m, where he made scoring contacts with CT3 (Madeira), CX (Uruguay), HZ (Saudi Arabia), LU (Argentina), PJ2 (Curacao), PY (Brazil),W (USA) and ZF (Cayman Islands). He describes the band as lively, and goes on to say "Reminds me of good old days when not many watts and a minimal antenna would get you across several thousands of miles. Good sport!"

Rick's European DXCCs were all SOTA summits, and the North American ones were a mix of Summits and Parks. The latter is a USA initiative which appears similar to SOTA but based on parks rather than peaks. The scheme's URL is https://parksontheair.com and is well worth a look. He also had a good crop of SRCC members via the Monday 80 metre nets.

All Quin's scoring contacts (ten big squares) were made on 6m in the RSGB 6m AFS and UKAC contests: all were on SSB with the exception of one on CW.

There is little detail available on Ted's scoring contracts, but we can be confident that they were all made on the HF bands using CW!

Time did not permit Colin to get on the air and make an entry this month, and h submitted a null entry.

The cumulative annual table is shown below, with relative positions remaining the same as for September.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	тот
G4FFY	166	153	207	164	252	536	205	166	194	144			2297
M0CGF	102	87	108	86	194	424	0	82	84	237			1402
G3ZPB	90	123	0	31	54	46	32	0	111	155			642
G4FYF	36	42	68	36	32	16	44	56	52	60			442
G4LZE	0	73	42	0	84	51	39	0	0	0			289
M0LEP	18	26	20	34	52	14	8	32	42	36			282
G3WRR	0	66	60	0	0	4	48	0	21	30			229
G3EUE	22	0	0	0	0	27	34	34	14	12			143
G3SRC	66	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			81

Several entrants commented on the improved conditions on 10m – always a sensitive indicator of the state of the sunspot cycle but affecting 15m as well – and took advantage of this to contribute to their entries. This is a virtuous circle in which signals on the band encourage other stations to come on which results in signals on the bands which encourages etc etc... It is also noticeable that there are often FT8 signals on the higher bands – particularly 10m - when other modes are absent.

Readers interested in what the HF bands are up to may not be aware of the IARU International Beacon Project. In this scheme, a worldwide chain of eighteen beacons take turns to transmit in a regular three minute time sequence on specified frequencies in the 20, 17, 15, 12 & 10m bands. Listening on these is an extremely useful indicator of what bands are open when and to where. Details are available at https://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/intro.html. There is also a Remote Beacon Network – but more of that another time!

The end of the year approaches and the Committee will be reviewing the rules that will apply to the League Table in 2023. Suggestions for changes from participants and or other club members are welcome. One such has already been received and the more the merrier - so please let me have your views / ideas....

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.....

A fairly full Newsletter this month – I hope it helps to keep you occupied over the Christmas period ©

A very Happy Christmas and an enjoyable 2023 to you all.

73, Quin G3WRR SRCC Newsletter Editor