



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

## DECEMBER 2024 – No. 988

General Club Business:	<a href="mailto:secretary@srcc.uk">secretary@srcc.uk</a>	Honorary Secretary & Editor: Quin Collier G3WRR 19 Grangecliffe Gardens, LONDON, SE25 6SY Tel: 020 8653 6948
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Club Website:	<a href="https://www.srcc.uk">https://www.srcc.uk</a>	

MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

Meetings at St. Paul's United Reformed Church, Croham Park Avenue,  
Croydon CR2 7HF

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1<sup>st</sup> MEETING Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: Video evening  
 2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Social

### SRCC COMMITTEE 2024/25

Chairman & Publicity	G4LZE Colin Lugard	07533 174388
Vice Chairman	G7RUX Jason Gardner	07515 357630
Hon. Secretary & Newsletter Editor	G3WRR Quin Collier	020 8653 6948
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### EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends, welcome to the December 2024 SRCC Newsletter.

Your scribe has actually managed to get on the air on three occasions from WRR Towers recently! Two of these were representing SRCC in the AFS contest series (see last month's Newsletter). The first was 50MHz AFS using my own call making 13 contacts earning 15<sup>th</sup> position out of 18 in the Local Club section and 43<sup>rd</sup> out of 56 in the Individual station section. The second was the 1.8MHz AFS Contest (formerly Club Calls Contest) using the club call GX3SRC making 31 contacts (15 SSB and 16 CW) resulting in 25<sup>th</sup> position out of 30 entrants in the Local Club section and 36<sup>th</sup> out of 55 entrants in the Individual section. Neither of these was an impressive result but my excuse is that I was using a dipole 15ft up on 6m and an inverted L with a 50ft top at 20ft - about 15% of a wavelength long - on 160m. And yes, I do know that a bad workman always blames his tools. 😊.

The third occasion was using my own call in the CQ WW CW DX contest. This is almost certainly the most strongly supported contest of the year anywhere in the world. Last year there were just over 8000 entrants, and the leading station made over 20000 contacts (this is of course a multi-band / multi-station / multi-operator entry): also quite a large number of stations (64 I think this year) usually put on special DXpedition stations from rare or otherwise interesting locations to add to the fun. Moving from the sublime (perhaps “insane” might be a better term) to the ridiculous, my entry was modest and aimed at working as many countries as possible, hopefully picking up a few of the rare ones along the way. A 14AVQ four band (40/20/15/10m) vertical was erected at ground level in the garden (with myself getting seriously moist in the process) as that was expected to work better than the inverted L to DX - which seemed to be the case. At the other end of the feeder was the trusty Elecraft K3 running 100W. It certainly wasn't a serious entry: the (very useful – and free) SH5 analysis program tells me I was on for less than five hours, interspersed by numerous breaks resulting from getting bored or needing yet another cup of tea. But 211 contacts were made in 58 DXCC entities including all continents except Oceania and Antarctica.

For comparison, it's worth adding that Alun G4WGE also took part in CQ WW CW. He was operating along with several of the great and good in the UK contesting fraternity at M6T in Suffolk – probably the nearest thing us Brits have to a “superstation”. Their multi-band / multi-station / multi-operator setup have made over 15200 contacts this year. Clearly they are made of sterner stuff than I am.....

So onwards and upwards with the interesting stuff ....

## 73, Quin G3WRR

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

November A meeting (4<sup>th</sup>) “Show and Tell” evening. Short displays were given by five members as follows:

**Pat G4FDN:** Pat displayed and demonstrated a single channel repeater system. This is based on the ability of DMR to support two circuits over a single channel (=frequency), as described in detail in Pat's article in the March 2024 SRCC Newsletter. The repeater used was an Anytone AT-D578UVIII mobile transceiver in SFR (Single Frequency Repeater) mode, via which handhelds (an Anytone D868 and an Anytone D878) were used to allow Pat and David G0PAR to communicate across the meeting room! *Pat mentioned offline that an article by himself on DMR SFRs will be appearing in the Ham Radio Ireland journal in the new year which will have a lot more configuration detail and explanation.*

**Gareth G4XAT:** Gareth showed one of the new pico-sized RP2040-Zero dual core microcontroller boards developed as part of the Raspberry Pi programme: these are available for £1.49 each! He demonstrated one of these integrated into his existing Langstone SDR system. This (an evolution of the Portsdown DATV system) can operate between 23MHz and 6GHz on SSB, CW and FM (although at the upper end of the range the frequency stability is good enough for FM, it is somewhat marginal for SSB!). *Scribe's note – not sure I have got this quite right...no doubt Gareth will put me right if not!*

**John G8MNY:** John displayed an MFJ 904H ATU which he had acquired in non-working condition. This uses a T configuration with two variable capacitors in series and a tapped toroid-based shunt inductor. The problem was found to be that the variable capacitors (strictly these were not variable capacitors but trimmers with knobs attached...) had seized up. Once freed up,

the ATU worked as intended. John noted that although only specified to operate between 3.5 & 30MHz it nearly worked on 1.8MHz, and addition of four turns to the inductor enabled 1.8MHz operation.

**Paul G7VAK:** Paul displayed a remote satellite terminal made by Thrane & Thrane designed for use on the Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) – operated by INMARSAT - which uses a network of geostationary satellites. BGAN has been used, amongst other applications, by TV news services to relay news (including pictures) from remote sites back to the UK or other countries. The terminal operated in L band (transmit 1629 – 1659 MHz and receive 1529 - 1565 MHz) and included a flat plate antenna built into the lid, which included a compass and clinometer allowing azimuth and elevation for the target satellite to be set. The required azimuth and elevation for different locations was included in the manual. The unit contained an internal battery in case mains power was not available, was microprocessor controlled and could be connected to cameras and other user sources via USB. Although the handbook suggested a transmit power capability of 10dbW (i.e. 100W) – as well as advising users not to stand in front of the antenna - the size of the battery suggested that powers of up to 25W would have been more sensible!

**John G3MCX:** John displayed three morse keys which in some senses reflected evolution of key technology:

- RAF type D straight key – straightforward “up and down” operation
- Semi-automatic key – relies on side-to-side operation of a “paddle”. Dashes are sent by pressing the right-hand side and have to be sent manually by the operator, but pressing the left-hand side causes a string of dots to be sent by means of a small weight on a spring lever. The speed can be varied by changing the position of the weight on the lever.
- Fully automatic key – the paddle is used in conjunction with an electronic keyer: a continuous string of dashes is sent all the time the right-hand side of the paddle is pressed and a string of dots all the time the left-hand side is pressed. Learning to get the timing right needs some practice! John demonstrated sending using his paddle and box of electronics.

**Quin G3WRR:** Quin had also brought along three keys, two were semi-automatic (to show differences in construction method) and the third was a paddle identical to the one shown by John – but in this case the paddle had been previously owned by John G3BFP: this is Quin’s favourite and the one he almost always uses. By plugging one of the semi-automatic keys into his K3 rig, he attempted to demonstrate sending morse using it – but all he really demonstrated was that he had that he has almost completely lost the knack of using a semi-auto key.... An aside is that the right-hand semi-auto key (picture below) is labelled “Made by Theodore R. McElroy - World Champion Radio Telegrapher”. Mr. McElroy is known to have held – and maybe still does – the record as the world’s fastest telegraph operator at 72 words per minute. An early example of product branding perhaps?!

Quin also displayed a three-valve receiver inherited from Dave G3JJZ (SK). By the look of it, it’s probably early 1930s and uses a Mullard PM12M tetrode RF stage followed by a Mazda HL2 leaky grid triode detector (possibly regenerative) and finally a Cossor 220P audio triode. The valve is rated at 190mW maximum output – so it’s clearly a headphone rather than speaker job! It is hoped to get this working again...

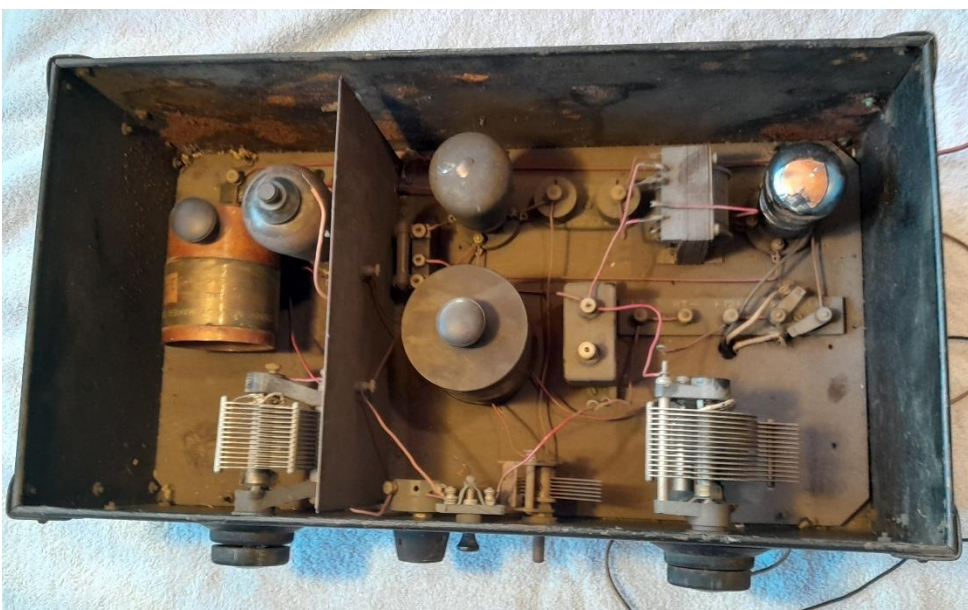
The pictures below show some of the items displayed....



Anyone AT-D578UVIII transceiver used as repeater in DMR demonstration.



Two semi-automatic keyers – the “Theodore R. McElroy” is on the right.



1930s(?) 3 valve TRF MW / LW receiver

November B meeting (18<sup>th</sup>) This was the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format session.



These photos show fairly typical activity on a Fix-It evening. Krishnan's Kenwood dual band 2m/70cm FM transceiver had a transmitter fault where the power out on 2m would fail after about one minute. John G8MNY, with his test equipment, diagnosed the problem to the PA stage power brick amplifier module, which was a Toshiba S-AV17. He provided Krishnan with an alternative Mitsubishi M67741H PA module with the same pinouts, and Krishnan did the replacement courtesy of John's tools and went back home smiling with his repaired rig!



## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

December A meeting (2<sup>nd</sup>) This will be a video evening. We will start with a video from the RSGB Convention in October entitled: Spanning the globe, the story of the beginning of global radiocommunication. This talk was given by Don Beattie G3BJ/G5W. After a break we plan to show a keynote presentation from the convention giving a humorous look at international licensing. It's entitled: Future of amateur radio licensing/ education given by Rafal Lukawiecki, EI6LA

December B meeting (16<sup>th</sup>) This will differ from the usual B meeting format, although there will no nod doubt be a good helping of social chat! With the approach of Christmas, it will be a festive session with snacks, drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) plus of course tea & coffee – with added feng shui provided by a tasteful tablecloth!

January 2025 A meeting (6<sup>th</sup>) This will be a “short talks evening” – topics yet to be agreed. If any member has a talk of perhaps 20 – 30 minutes duration that they would like to give, please contact one of the Committee.

January 2025 B meeting (20<sup>th</sup>) This will be the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format session.

CATS will be holding their Christmas meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December and have invited SRCC members to attend. If you are interested in going along please let me know so I can let them know numbers (must not let them run out of sausage rolls etc..) and I will supply you with details.

## HISTORICAL SRCC PICTURES

Thanks to Ray G4FFY for sending a number of pictures of SRCC activities going back 14 years and more. These may be of interest to both members of longer standing and newer members who would like to see what former members they hear talked about looked like! These will be “drip fed” into the Newsletter of a period of a few months. So here is a “starter for ten”...



**Club Dinner 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008 Park Place Beefeater, Mitcham (now a Toby Cavery):**  
– clockwise round main table from left: Peter G3ZPB, Wendy (Mrs. G3ZPB), John G8IYS, Jayne (Mrs. G4XAT), Gareth G4XAT, Cece (Mrs. G4FDN), Pat G4FDN, Graham G3RJW, Mrs G3RJW, Carole (Mrs. G8IYS), Carol (Mrs. G7PWV). Background table l. to r. David G3KQR, Charlie M0BIN, John G3BFP, Maurice G4DDY, unidentified lady.

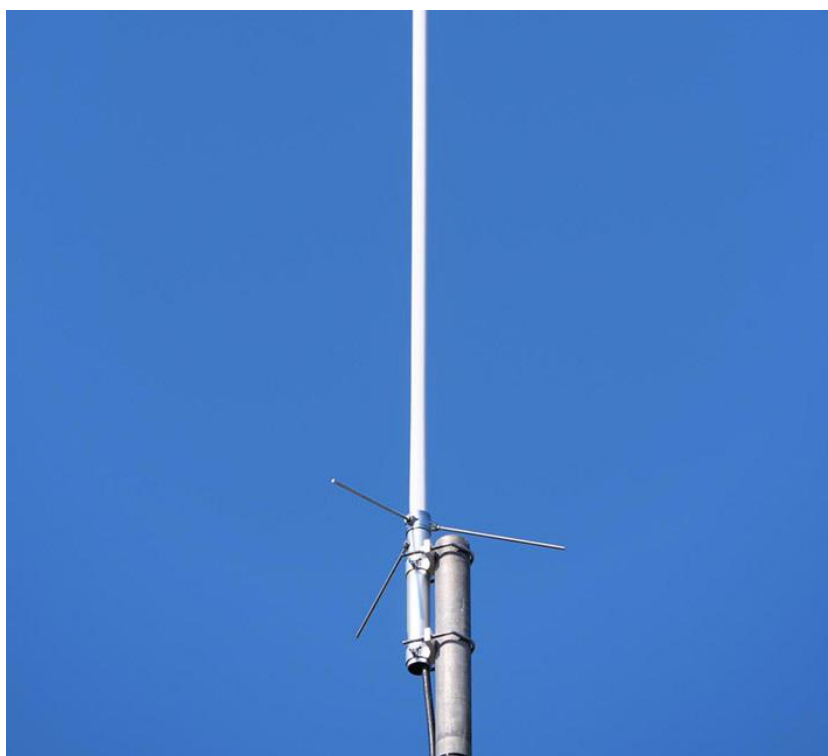


**Antenna erection at TS Terra Nova (former SRCC venue in South Croydon) – date late 1970's: l. to r. Ray G4FFY, Ted G3EUE, Bernie G8TB, Maurice G4DDY**

More to follow next month...



## FOR SALE BY G4FDN



Diamond X-50 Dual Band 2m/70cm Colinear £35. In very clean uncorroded condition as only used outside for two weeks. Data/Specification/Installation instructions in PDF format available here:

<https://static.dxengineering.com/global/images/instructions/>

Contact details for G4FDN as per SRCC Membership List or as on QRZ.com

## HERE AND THERE



Star of stage, screen, commercial television, etc.... The above picture shows Paul G7VAK appearing on ITVs *Good Morning* programme on 11th November hosted by Cat Deeley and Alison Hammond. The item looked at stories surrounding WW2 medals and Paul presented his uncle's set. He was in Royal Artillery and became a PoW on Crete. And Paul was wearing his RSGB Call Sign lapel badge!

Another historical snippet...John G3MCX recently found an SRCC membership card going back to the time he joined the club (see below) – and it includes a copy of the club rules! That's certainly not the sort of thing one would expect to see these days. Perhaps it was that way because society was more rule-bound in those days – or maybe with all the information we could possibly want available via the internet it's no longer necessary.... But either way interesting! And please be reassured that the Committee have no plans to reinstitute cards including rules....

members present, to supervise the ballot. The scrutineers shall be Club members who are not nominees or nominators.

12. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than two members. Such co-opt members shall not possess voting powers nor be elected as Officers.

13. Committee Meetings shall be called as considered necessary by the Chairman.

14. At a Committee Meeting four members, excluding the Chairman, shall constitute a quorum.

15. When the voting is equal at a Committee Meeting, the Chairman shall be entitled to exercise a casting vote.

16. The Treasurer shall have control of normal expenditure in connection with Club activities, subject to restrictions determined by the Committee.

17. The Club Accounts shall be audited once a year, prior to the Annual General Meeting by two persons not necessarily Club members, appointed by the Club members.

18. The subscription shall be 85p per year, due 1st May each year.

19. The Club shall meet as determined by the Committee.

20. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall take place in April each year.

21. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time by the Committee and may also be called on the demand in writing of not less than one-tenth of the Club members on application to the Committee.

22. At meetings defined by Rules 20 and 21, all Club members present shall be entitled to vote and the Chairman may exercise a casting vote in the event of equal voting.

23. At meetings defined by Rules 20 and 21 one-quarter of the Club membership shall constitute a quorum. If one-quarter of the Club membership is not present a further Meeting shall be held within one calendar month and that Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

24. At least seven days' notice in writing shall be given by the Secretary to the Club members of any General Meeting defined by Rules 20 and 21.

25. The Committee shall have the right to elect Honorary Members of the Club, subject to the approval of the Club members.

26. The Rules of the Club shall be amended by a vote for the motion of at least two-thirds of the Club members present at a Meeting of the Club members called under Rules 20 and 21. Notice in writing to the Secretary shall be given of any proposed amendment to the Rules at least 21 days before date of A.G.M.

27. A Chairman's term of office may not exceed three years' continuous service, after which period at least one year must pass before he may offer himself for re-election as Chairman.

SURREY  
RADIO CONTACT  
..CLUB..

Membership Card

**RULES OF S.R.C.C.**

1. The Club shall be called the Surrey Radio Contact Club.
2. The Club shall be affiliated to the R.S.G.B.
3. All persons with a genuine interest in amateur radio shall be eligible for membership.
4. The Club shall be managed by an Executive Committee of eight, inclusive of the Secretary, which shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, the Secretary to be separately nominated and elected. In the event of a Committee member resigning a replacement member may be elected in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 9 at an Extraordinary General Meeting. The closing date for nomination shall be as determined by the Committee.
5. A person desirous of joining the Club shall submit his name in writing to the Secretary for consideration by the Committee together with the name of a Club member who will act as his sponsor. The Committee reserve the right to withhold membership from an applicant.
6. An applicant having received a favourable reply from the Secretary shall forward the annual subscription and will be deemed a Club member as from the date on the receipt, and receive a copy of the Club Rules.
7. A person shall cease to be a Club member when his subscription is more than three months overdue unless a reasonable explanation can be furnished to the Committee. A notice shall be sent to all members as their subscription becomes due and a final warning shall be sent on the expiry of three months' period.
8. The Committee reserve the right to withdraw any person, who in the opinion of the Committee fails to observe the spirit of Rule 3. Such a person will be entitled to state his case before the Committee, whose decision shall be binding. The circumstances of the withdrawal of membership shall be promulgated.
9. Only Club members shall be eligible for nomination for the Committee and names put forward shall be sponsored by another Club member, who shall obtain the nominee's agreement in writing. The closing date for such nominations shall be in advance of the Annual General Meeting as determined by the Committee.
10. At the Annual General Meeting the Club members shall elect from amongst the elected Committee, a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, subject to Rule 27. The Committee shall elect any other Officers it may deem necessary from time to time.
11. The election of the Committee, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary shall be by secret ballot, a simple majority being sufficient for election. At least two scrutineers shall be appointed, these to be volunteers from the Club

No. ....

Name JOHN KENNEDY

Address S THE RIDGE

ORPINGTON

KENT BR6 8AP

Phone No. ORPINGTON (0689) 32072

Call-Sign G 3MCX

Starting Date.....

Signature *John Kennedy*

Thanks to Rick M0LEP for an interesting bit of information. Those with long memories or an interest in amateur satellite comms (or both) may remember Oscar 7. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> (as you will probably already have realised) of a series of amateur radio satellites (OSCAR = Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) launched in the 1960s/70s. (I can remember sitting in Peter G3SJX's car outside a pub in Southampton in 1970 listening to the 10m downlink of its predecessor OSCAR 6 at quite good strength). OSCAR 7 was launched almost exactly 50 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1974. It had 2 modes (2m uplink / 10m downlink and 70cm uplink / 2m downlink) and worked well until 1981 when one of the batteries shorted out. But that isn't the end of the story – there are stories that the delinquent battery un-shorted itself in 1981 allowing a further period of use (but only the satellite was in sunlight). There have also been other rumours, but they seem less plausible and perhaps more in the domain of conspiracy theory. Either way it's an interesting story – have a look at [https://www.theregister.com/2024/11/25/amsat\\_oscar\\_7\\_anniversary....](https://www.theregister.com/2024/11/25/amsat_oscar_7_anniversary....) Well worth a read.

## SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – OCTOBER 2024

The number of entrants, five, and their identities are the same as in September. However, for the first time since April this year, Ray G4FFY is not at the top of the League Table! Ian M0CGF has taken over the top position: it's always good to see a bit of variety (although Ray might not be fully convinced of that...) so it will be interesting to see how things play out for the rest of the year. The monthly listing for October is as follows:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0CGF	80	1		162
G4FFY	55		36	146
G4FYF	33	1		68
M0LEP	13		1	28
G3WRR	5			15

The cumulative annual results are shown below:

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4FFY	114	223	89	123	157	265	91	116	103	146			1427
G4FYF	28	40	68	38	30	70	52	68	52	68			514
G3WRR	63	18	42		45		30			15			222
M0LEP	14	22	20	46	22	14	22	38	4	28			230
M0CGF			100	86					78	162			426
G3ZPB	69	83											152

Although the positions have not changed since last month Ray's maintains his impressive lead.

The following notes are provided by the entrants...

**G4FFY:** *Activity in October was higher than in the immediately preceding months. However, the 6m AFS and the 2m FT8 were my only VHF contest entries. On HF, besides the FT4 contest I also did some 10m FT8 operating along with the occasional 160m contact. Managed to work the RSGB Convention stations GB3HQ as well as GB4RS when the President John McCullagh G14BWM was operating. DXCC's worked has increased to 163 with the working of Aruba (P40L on 15m using FT4).*

**M0CGF:** *Some nice DX in there, I'd like to think it was the new location, but I expect it was just conditions! Nice to have 30m back - some nice stuff appears on there.*

**G4FYF:** Good sport had on 10 meters this month, 60% league QSOs made on that band. A new one was Fernando de Noronha Island (PX0FF), a small island off East coast Brazil (see map on right). Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct 10m was open for a few hours to West coast Canada and US. I made several good QSOs to those parts with my 100W and bit of wire! Guess signals were going via the Pole.



**M0LEP:** October's radio activity was rather more interesting than September's, consisting of a mix of SRCC Nets, check-ins after GB2CW broadcasts, and SOTA. I got out with my portable kit to play on Cefn Eglwysilan (SOTA GW/SW-025) near Pontypridd one Saturday afternoon (photo at right). Most of the activity represented below came from that one activation. The lower HF bands were suffering from excessive solar activity, but I managed to put 10 and 20 metres to good use. I got three summit-to-summit contacts in the log (one from over the ocean) along with a good number of chasers from around Europe (mostly on 20 metres) and America (all on 10 metres).



**G3WRR:** A non-null entry for a change – but just a few big squares worked in 6m AFS 😞

Although the SFI continues to jiggle up & down unpredictably the smoothed figure shows no real sign of the turndown that we all know is coming (but not yet please...)! The current SF remains about 70% above predictions, However the associated elevated A & K indices are making things less easy at times. Ah well, we can't have it both ways...

**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](mailto:q.g.collier@btinternet.com).

<b>BAND/FREQUENCY/MODE</b>	<b>DAY OF WEEK</b>	<b>START TIME (clock)</b>
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 lot of pages this month but a fair bit of that consists of pictures. (I am reminded of a 60s comedy programme about a downmarket tailor's shop entitled "Never mind the quality, feel the width"). Inputs from members always welcome!. See you next time.

**73, Quin G3WRR**  
**SRCC Secretary and Newsletter Editor**