



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

JANUARY 2025 – No. 989

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MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

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

1st MEETING Monday 6th January: Short talks evening

2nd MEETING Monday 20th January: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

SRCC COMMITTEE 2024/25

Chairman & Publicity	G4LZE Colin Lugard	07533 174388
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EDITOR’S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends, welcome to the January 2026 SRCC Newsletter.

I hope you all had the sort of Christmas that suits you and those with whom you spent the time. Different folks seem to treat the occasion in very different ways. Here at WRR Towers, Christmas Day itself was quiet - just my son Guy and myself. We gave turkey a miss (we find it a bit dry) and had lamb with sausages instead. As neither of us likes brussels sprouts, we used to have a token single sprout each – but nowadays it seems impossible to buy them individually so that’s a habit that has been abandoned.... But it’s not quite a case of “Bah, humbug” from the Colliers as once the Big Day was over Guy and his daughter Moo went down to his girlfriend in Horsham once she and her children got back from her mothers in France, and I went up to Nottingham to visit my daughter Elanor and three year-old granddaughter Summer.... great if you don’t weaken!

Another slant on different approaches to Christmas is shown in the two pictures below – these (just round the corner for us) amused me but I’m assuming that this were a private venture initiative by a local resident rather than a Post Office corporate one...



So, let's get on to the real stuff

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

December A meeting (2nd) This was a video evening in which recordings of two talks given at the RSGB Convention on 12th/13th October were shown. Rather Janus like, one looked back deep into the history of the hobby and the other took a look ahead on the future of amateur radio licensing and education. The former was given by Don Beattie G3BJ (formerly G3OZF) and described the first trans-world amateur radio contact in 1924 (between Mill Hill School in London and a sheep farm (!) in New Zealand) and the events leading up to it. Don is always a skilled and interesting presenter, and this was up to his usual standard. The latter was delivered by Rafal Lukawiecki EI6LA – an amateur younger than many of us, and originally from Poland. He had a very interesting and humorous style of presentation which focussed on his work with IRTS for the new Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC). Both videos (as well as several others from the Convention) are well worth watching – take a look at the full list at <https://www.youtube.com/TheRSGB>.

December B meeting (16th) This was not quite the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format session, although a good amount of social chat took place. It was the usual pre-Christmas session with savouries, mince pies, soft drinks, tea and coffee - as well as alcoholic drinks kindly provided by Pat G4FDN and Paul G7VAK. In addition to 13 SRCC members we were visited by John G3MCX's wife Sandra, daughter Lucy and Lucy's daughter Lily. The family dog Jasper was also present but didn't sign the book... Ray G4FFY presented a quiz, originated by G4OTV of the West Kent ARS. This consisted of a mix of general knowledge questions and riddles: no prizes were on offer but taking part was great fun – and we were trounced by our lady visitors!

FUTURE MEETINGS

January 2025 A meeting (6th) This will be a “short talks evening” – consisting of more than one topic, which do not individually merit a single talk for the whole evening but typically run for perhaps 25-30 minutes. One will be by John G3MCX on his trip to Hong Kong during National Service and the other by Quin G3WRR on antenna modelling.

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

February 2025 A meeting (3rd) On air evening

February 2025 B meeting (17th) This will be the usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format session.

HISTORICAL SRCC PICTURES

Here are a couple more pictures from the historical archive that 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!



PETER G3ZPB & RAY G4FFY – BELIEVED TO BE HANDLING FINANCES AT A SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE (DATE UNKNOWN) - HENCE THE SMILES ON THEIR FACES...



TED G3EUE, INTENSE CONCENTRATION ON HIS FACE, DOING ANTENNA ERECTION AT TS TERRA NOVA (PROBABLY 1980s)

More to follow next month...

HERE AND THERE

One of the historical places that those of us living in the Croydon area will be aware, and quite possibly proud, of is the Crystal Palace. There is a large amount of information on its life and demise in 1936 on the internet but recently I came across a particularly interesting mix of pictures and historical information at <https://heritagecalling.com/2021/11/29/picturing-the-crystal-palace/>. It's well worth a read.

Apart from the pure historical aspects, there is a link with early communications: John Logie Baird and his assistants conducted some early television experiments from one of the water towers shown in the pictures on the website. I also understand that one of his assistants was Ray Herbert G2KU who used to live in Sanderstead (and whose particulars are oddly still shown on QRZ.com!). Ray was a member of the SRCC member, but I first remember talking to him as a member of the Purley Club in the 1960s.

Since Christmas crackers are not included with this issue, the least your scribe can do is include a couple of the sort of jokes that you sometimes find in them – so, with apologies, try these:

Q - what is the difference between a bird with one wing and a bird with two wings?

A - it's a matter of a pinion....

Q - what kind of cheese do you use if you want to conceal a horse?

A - Mascarpone.

Q – why don't polar bears eat penguins?

A – they can't get the wrappers off....

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – NOVEMBER 2024

The number of entrants, five, and their identities are the same as in October. First place for the second consecutive month goes to Ian M0CGF, followed by Quin G3WRR who moves up three places to second, displacing Ray G4FFY, Steve G4FYF and Rick M0LEP by one place to take third, fourth and fifth respectively. The monthly listing for November is as follows:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0CGF	88		6	182
G3WRR	59		59	177
G4FFY	38		28	114
G4FYF	10	1		22
M0LEP	7	1	0	16

The following notes are provided by the entrants...

G4FFY: *Activity in November was all contest based. On HF it was the 160m Club Calls and the FT4 contests, whilst on VHF it was the 2m UKAC, and 2m and 70cm FT8 Contests. DXCC's worked remains at 163.*

M0CGF: *Managed to score 6,095 points in the 6m UKAC assuming I don't get any knocked off. [Editor's note – as adjudicator for that contest I couldn't possibly comment...] Only spent the first 10mins and last 40mins of the contest. Going to try and get 160m up and running over Xmas so let's see! Got a 9:1 unun and about 175ft of wire to play with!*

G3WRR: *A real non-zero entry for a change! All claimed QSOs were made in the CQWW CW contest: this is always a good opportunity for making a good country total and (if you're lucky which I largely wasn't) also for picking up new rare ones. Struggled for about half an hour trying to get DU0A (Philippines) on 40m without success. But ho hum, it's only a hobby...*

G4FYF: Radio fun time limited this month. six of nine QSOs on 10 meters, rest 40 meters. Interesting QSO with U4MIR, a retired cosmonaut who was commander of mission to Salyut 7 followed by two missions to the Mir space station.



MOLEP: Storm Darragh has given my hex beam a twist, so I'll have to get out and set it back to pointing straight when the storm's over. For now, it's stuck pointing somewhere generally southeast-ish. The DXCCs were mostly from SOTA chasing, with ten metres providing all but one of them. The SRCC Monday morning 80 metre net of course also gives me one reliable SRCC contact.

The cumulative annual results to date are as follows:

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	114		1541
M0CGF			100	86					78	162	182		608
G4FYF	28	40	68	38	30	70	52	68	52	68	22		536
G3WRR	63	18	42		45		30			15	177		399
M0LEP	14	22	20	46	22	14	22	38	4	28	16		246
G3ZPB	69	83											152

The positions have not changed since last month, and Ray's lead now seems to be unassailable.

The summary of the present conditions is almost identical to last month's viz. SFI unpredictable on a day-to-day basis but still well above the predictions. The source of the predictions was the SolarHam website operated by VE3EN at <https://solarham.com/index.htm>. For those interested in solar activity (both generally and in the terms of its impact on radio propagation) it's well worth a look. In addition to large amounts of (regularly updated) data on various aspects of the topic, it contains very clear explanations of some of the solar-weather related terms (such as coronal hole, coronal mass ejection, geomagnetic storm etc.) we know but may not understand fully.

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 slightly shorter issue this month partly due to lack of material, but also due to activities associated with preparation for Christmas. It is hoped that normal service will be resumed in the February issue. Inputs from members are always welcome – don't forget that the more the members submit, the less of my stuff you have to read! See you next time.

73, Quin G3WRR
SRCC Secretary and Newsletter Editor