



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

## JUNE 2024 – No 982

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 URC, Croham Park Avenue, Croydon CR2 7HF

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1<sup>st</sup> MEETING Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: NanoVNA analysers by Quin G3WRR

2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

### SRCC COMMITTEE 2024/25

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### EDITOR'S OPENER

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

This is likely to be a rather shorter than usual issue (which many of you will probably regards as a mercy...) because your scribe is currently in the middle of preparing for HF (CW) NFD this coming weekend. SRCC as a club no longer enters this event (although in days past it used to do so, winning it on at least one occasion in the 60s under the leadership of John G3BFP and Ron G6LX). However, two of our members, myself and Alun G4WGE, will be taking part along with John G4CZB (formerly from Purley although never an SRCC member) at a site near Northampton where John lives. As with many such activities, one key to success is preparation and WRR Towers is liberally sprinkled with gear, tents antennas etc. And a month after HF NFD, on the first weekend in July, is VHF NFD – of which more later.....

I think all members and friends will now be aware of the sad news of the death of Peter Burton G3ZPB from mesothelioma and will have received an invite (via the SRCC list) from his wife Wendy to attend his Thanksgiving Service last Saturday (25<sup>th</sup>). For those who were not able to attend (and there was a healthy SRCC presence there) this took place at St John's Church in Old Coulsdon. I would estimate that there were about 100 people there (this can only be an estimate

as it wouldn't have been quite the thing to go around with a clipboard actively counting...). The upbeat, well organised and presented service together with the number of attendees reflects Peter's strong Christian faith and his wide range of interests of which amateur radio was just one. This was followed by an excellent buffet in the adjacent hall which provided, as these events often do, a chance to catch up with old friends. A message of condolence has been sent to Wendy and the family on behalf of the club, although several members have also responded individually. Goodbye Peter - you will be missed but not forgotten. A couple of pictures follow:



**VIEW INSIDE ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**



**EULOGY BY PETER'S WIDOW  
WENDY**



**JOHN G8MNY & RAY G4FFY  
ENJOYING THE HOSPITALITY**

On a less sombre note, I spent a few days at Saltfleet on the Lincolnshire coast with my daughter Elanor and granddaughter Summer (now three years old)...great fun - but dealing with a three year old is harder to cope with than it was when my children were that age!

So, on to the value adding stuff...

**73, Quin G3WRR**

## **PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

May A meeting (13<sup>th</sup>) This didn't turn out quite as planned – but the outcome was nevertheless favourable. The original intention, bearing in mind the approach of VHF NFD in early July, was twofold: firstly to encourage SRCC membership interest in taking part, and secondly to start putting our plans together. This had been intended to take the form of an RSGB video from last year's event, followed by a discussion led by Ray G4FFY to focus attendees' minds. But alas Ray was at short notice unable to attend and despite determined efforts by Colin G4LZE and Pat G4FDN, the necessary internet connection could not be set up – and the slidepack was on Ray's computer and hence not amongst those present!

Nevertheless a discussion took place amongst those who were and a number of valid points were raised – most of which had already been addressed in the slidepack (which has been sent post event to the attendees) and form the basis of a plan. More to follow later in this issue....



May B meeting (20<sup>th</sup>) This followed the current Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

June A meeting (3<sup>rd</sup>) 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 will open with a demonstration by Quin G3WRR of their operation (what they can do and how to drive them). It had been hoped that Pat G4FDN would be able to attend on the date to tell us about uploading new software versions but he will be away then so perhaps he can be persuaded to do so at a later date.

June B meeting (17<sup>th</sup>) This will follow the current Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format.

July A meeting (1<sup>st</sup>) Construction Contest. This will follow its usual format. For those who have not attended before, the aim is for members to bring along any items they have built which they think might be of interest to others. These can be either fully home built or kits – anything you like really - and contributors are encouraged to give a brief description of the item and its background. Attendees can then vote on their favourites – quite straightforward...no multiple transferrable votes or stuff like that – and there will be prizes...cups for the first and second positions (being “in the ironwork” we call it...) and our treasurer (Ray “twisted arm” Howells G4FFY) has been persuaded to fund small financial prizes for the leading three entries.

July B meeting (15<sup>th</sup>) This will follow the current Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format.

August meetings August is a difficult month to arrange meetings for, as it is the peak of the holiday season: and although the club has traditionally held a meeting of some sort (usually a barbecue or similar social event) the numbers have been falling in the last few years. So the Committee would like to canvass members' views on the subject. The sort of things we are thinking about is:

- should we still aim to hold two meetings in August?
- is there any part of August when you are more (or less) likely to attend?
- would a barbecue (or similar) or a talk (or any other format for that matter) be preferable?

Please don't be constrained to just those questions – going down that road reduces the opportunity for innovative ideas –any suggestions will be welcome....or to use a phrase from (I think) James Deam in “Rebel Without A Cause” – “What ya got?”

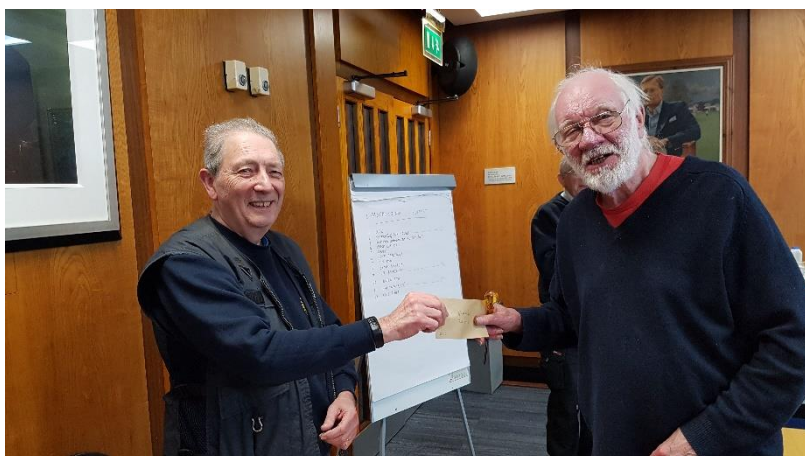
**73, Quin G3WRR**

## REMEMBRANCE OF PETER G3ZPB by PAT G4FDN

*I first met Peter at an SRCC meeting sometime between 1973 and 1974, as best I can recall. I had first attended the SRCC in December 1972 and then applied for membership a few months later. It is likely Peter was already a member when I joined, but without a membership list from 1973 or 1974 I can't be certain (John G3MCX could probably verify). I know Peter got his callsign less than a year before I got G8FDN in August 1972. We didn't have our first QSO until the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1975 at 1810 GMT on 145.000 MHz FM. Peter was operating /A from Pound Street in Carshalton where he had opened a small shop/office as part of the Amateur Radio Bulk Buying Group (ARBBG). I became a fairly frequent visitor to this establishment to get components and cables, etc, as I lived close by. As I recall, the Essex part of the ARBBG later morphed into Ambit*

*International and then Maplin Electronic. Peter himself moved on to found Catronics with a shop in Wallington Square. The SRCC started a 2 metre FM Net on 145.35MHz late in 1975 and Peter was quite a regular participant in this often operating /Mobile. The SRCC had been a participant in the RSGB's HF and VHF field days since their inception and Peter joined the club's VHF operating team and was an avid participant up until his death. In the 80's with the introduction of relatively low cost home computers Peter became active on packet radio and later went on to host the club's packet radio node/BBS at his home. Peter and I had some things in common both being Chartered Electrical Engineers and members of the IEE (now IET) but we often disagreed on things to do with club administration. Peter had several stints on the SRCC committee and was Chairman in the 1990's and later in 2017 for a further 3 years. My last QSOs with Peter were on digital voice (FreeDV and DSTAR) on 2m and 70cm. Peter contributed a lot to the SRCC throughout his life and he would have no doubt contributed a lot more had his life not been cruelly cut short by cancer. 73, Pat*

Very many thanks to Pat for the above input: I'm sure there are other members who have information and anecdotes about Peter and in view of everything that he did for the club, I would like to capture them and present them in a structured way. So if there is anything you would like to contribute please contact me (e-mail or other means are fine). Such information could of course include pictures. Ray G4FFY has already provided quite a number and a small subset is attached - but more would certainly be welcome!



**PETER PRESENTING CASH PRICE FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTEST TO JOHN G8IYS (note how tightly both of them are holding onto the envelope...)**



**SRCC Dinner – 5<sup>th</sup> Apr 2008 Park Place, Mitcham. LEFT HAND SIDE – (Youngish) Peter G3ZPB, Wendy (Mrs. G3ZPB), John G8IYS, Jayne and Gareth G4XAT. By the window is Cece and Pat G4FDN RIGHT HAND SIDE - Carole (Mrs. G8IYS) and Carole (Mrs. G7PWV)**



**VHF NFD 70cm STATION (2<sup>nd</sup> Jul 2016) – G3WRR & G3ZPB. Perhaps Quin has just told Peter the one about why you can't get aspirins in the jungle ...**

**73, Quin G3WRR**

## **VHF NFD 2024**

SRCC will as usual be taking part in VHF National Field Day (VHF NFD) as part of North-East Surrey Contest Group (NESCG) together with members from CATS and others with no specific club affiliation. The date this year is 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> July although we are likely to be on site from the afternoon of July 5<sup>th</sup>. We will (subject to confirmation from Nick the farmer) be operating from Warren Barn Farm from a field on the right-hand side (going out from Warlingham) of the A269 Croydon Road / Limpsfield Road.

We are expecting to be operating on 6m / 4m / 2m / 70cm and possibly 23cm. We appear to be OK for equipment but likely to be short of people as we are two of the "usual suspects" down. So, if you are interested in coming along to help set up / just say hello and have a cup of tea and possibly operate, we'd be glad to see you! If you haven't been before and need more info, just contact me by any of the means shown on the Newsletter.

**73, Quin G3WRR**

## **THE ADVANTAGES OF VAPING?**

My daughter's partner uses disposable vapes. I was curious about how these things are powered so decided to tear them apart. First was a stick type.



Prised out bottom plug with small screwdriver then peeled back the metal casing with long-nosed pliers in a fashion I guess we've all used to open a tin of corned beef when the key breaks!

That done, quick tap, and the innards slid out. That revealed a lithium polymer cell, the radial terminals soldered to a small circuit board housing a small microcontroller and a small heating element capsule.

Desoldered the cell that showed a terminal voltage of 2.2V so,



potentially, a future life for it. The cell label describes this size 13300, 3.7V, 360mAh. About an hour charge of 5V at 200mA brought it up to 4.2V, normal for 3.7V rated cells.

Next was a small, squat plastic type.



This was simpler to dismember, run a utility knife blade around the bottom glued seal and prise apart with screwdriver.



Again, a lithium cell with axial terminals giving 3.6V. About 0.5 hour with same charge conditions got it to 4.2V. Label described it as size 13300, 3.7V, 360mAh.

I shall keep on collecting these 'cos I see potential (excuse the pun!) use in various projects I knock up. Add a cheapo USB charge control module, away we go!

**Beware:** If you attempt similar, please take care not to distort or damage the battery that may have hazardous/dangerous consequences. Also, given their form factor, there is a danger of accidental shorting of the terminals – not good (trust me!). So don't just chuck them in the junk box for storage!

[Editor's note: I had a bit of additional information from Steve about the background to the above: "Although not obvious in that piece, there is a hidden radio link. The battery on my old, cheapo, Baofeng went kaput. Price to replace was much more than I paid for the radio that I very infrequently use. So used 2 slightly bigger cells reclaimed from laptop battery pack boxed, strapped to the back. Not elegant but works! Similarly, fed up with short charge life of my MFJ antenna analyser batteries, used 4 cells, again strapped to the back to give extended life especially when down the garden tweaking antennas. Could be, I'm just tight!]

73 Steve G4FYF

## HERE AND THERE

Thanks to Ray G4FFY for some interesting pictures received recently. The two below complement last month's words only write-up on Ted G3EUE. They show a number of SRCC members

erecting an antenna at the old SRCC meeting place of TS Terra Nova in South Croydon using a catapult!



**Left to right:  
Ray G4FFY,  
Ted G3EUE,  
Bernie G8TB  
and Maurice  
G4DDY**



**Ted G3EUE,  
looking  
intense,  
firing the  
catapult**

These pictures remind me of an occurrence when I was with Addiscombe ARC many years ago. Like SRCC, we had decided that a catapult would be useful for upping antennas and fabricated one using two 20ft scaffold poles as cross arms. Peter G3SJX went looking for suitable elastic, SRCC Newsletter June 2024 – E&OE



and found a promising looking toy shop (this must have been in the days before computer games and text messages when youngsters used to gain their amusement from making catapults to terrorise animals and pensioners...). He asked whether they sold ¼" by ¼" catapult elastic and was assured that they did: but when the lady behind the counter asked him how much he wanted and he told her he needed 18ft, he got a most peculiar look! But we built it, and it proved fearsomely impressive (though a bit uncontrollable). Such things would not be approved of by the Health and Safety community these days of course....

There will be more of Ray's pictures in next month's issue – including one of a recent aurora visible from FFY Towers during the recent period of solar overactivity.

Moving away from photography, thanks to Kim G6JXA for a reminder that this year's Newbury Rally takes place on Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is one of the larger rallies in the area round London so if you are a fan of rallies, well worth a visit! More information is available at the following URL: <https://www.nadars.org.uk/rally.asp>

### 73, Quin G3WRR

## SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – APRIL 2024

Four entries were received for the April League Table, one down on March. Good to see another entry from Ian M0CGF. The monthly results are as shown below:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	43		37	123
M0CGF	43			86
M0LEP	21	2		46
G4FYF	18	1		38

The following notes come from the entrants...

**G4FFY:** *A higher activity month with entries in the 2m & 70cm UKACs, as well as the April FT4 Contest. Also did some SSB operating from the Motorhome working some International Marconi Day stations. As of end-March 2024 I'm still on 161 DXCC's.*

**M0CGF:** *Back from Bangladesh.*

**G4FYF:** *Very little commentary, nothing stunning, usual stuff on 40 & 20 m.*

**M0LEP:** *April had a few days in which I did a fair bit of SOTA chasing, so my League table entry's slightly better than last month's. There've been a few activations on islands, of which Svalbard (JW) was probably the most unusual from a SOTA point of view.*

The cumulative scores are shown below. Ray G4FFY, Steve G4FYF and Rick M0LEP retain first, third and sixth places: Ian M0CGF moves up three places to second, Quin G3WRR moves down one to fourth (serves him right for not submitting an entry...) and sadly but inevitably Peter G3ZPB moves down two places to fourth.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4FFY	114	223	89	123									549
M0CGF			100	86									186
G4FYF	28	40	68	38									174
G3ZPB	69	83											152
G3WRR	63	18	42										123
M0LEP	14	22	20	46									102

The SFI continues to be volatile but while remaining well ahead of predictions, it seems to be levelling out as we approach the peak of cycle 25 (although forecasts suggest there is still just over a year to go). Last month's comment about the A & K indices being volatile has been borne out in spades with the recent enormous CME and its serious impact on propagation. But hum ho, on the upside we got to see auroras here in the Deep South....

### 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).

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. See you next month.

And just in case you didn't know "the one about why you can't get aspirins in the jungle" (see pictures above) goes:

*Q – why can't you get aspirins in the jungle?  
A – because paracetamol.*

(Thanks to Bill Brace of BT circa 1976) I still find that hilarious - but they do say that little things please little minds....

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