



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

87th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

JUNE 2022 – No 958

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

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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 Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT**

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**1<sup>st</sup> MEETING Monday 6 June: Video Evening**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING Monday 20 June: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY**

## SRCC COMMITTEE 2022/23

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Committee Member (Co-opted)	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737 551413
Committee Member (Co-opted)	G7RUX Jason Gardner	07515 357630

## EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends, unfortunately I must open this month with two pieces of sad news.

Firstly, Ray G4FFY has been notified by a contact in CATS that Mike Buckley M1CCF, who has been a SRCC member for a number of years, has died. As I understand it, on return from a holiday in Cyprus he caught COVID and was then hospitalised with pneumonia. My last contact with him was an e-mail to say that he was out of hospital but "firing on two cylinders". I'm sure we all offer our sympathies to his wife and family, and a card has been sent on behalf of the club to this effect.

Secondly, again while preparing this issue, I received a totally unexpected letter to say that Kath

Giles, wife of one of our “out of town” members Terry G4CDY, died on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Members may remember Kath who assisted Terry when he acted as question master at a number of the Inter Club Quizes. Again very, very sad and I’m sure we offer Terry and his family our condolences.

On a slightly brighter aspect of the subject of mortality, at the time of writing I reached my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, having lived 22 years longer than my father did – which is sometimes a rather odd feeling! At a factual level I can accept that I am 70, but in terms of how I feel about it, it’s a case of “no, I’m not really”...

I recently took a few days break in the Deep South West, first at Totnes then on to Exmouth to attend a concert by Steeleye Span (a folk rock group of similar(ish) style to Fairport Convention). They were either the first or second group I ever saw live (in my first week at Southampton University in 1970), the other being Deep Purple – quite a major difference in style.... I have seen them perhaps ten times in the intervening half century, and the concert was great and well up to standard. While there have inevitably been quite a few changes of members over the years they have maintained both the style and at least one of the original members from 1969 (the lead singer Maddy Prior). And in case you were puzzled by the rather unusual name, the Fount Of All Knowledge - the internet of course - advises that Steeleye Span was a character in a poem by Thomas Hardy (worth saving that one up for TV quiz shows...).

But since this is a radio club Newsletter, here is a little bit about radio! Next weekend (unfortunately clashing with the Platinum Jubby celebrations – one would have hoped that Her Majesty could have organised things better) is HF (CW) NFD. I will be taking part as usual as part of Flying Ducks Contest Group with Alun G4WGE and John G4CZB from a site near Northampton to which John has access. With less than a week to go no Master List has yet been produced, but as we are doing what is pretty much a carbon copy of last year, that shouldn’t be too much of a problem. What **is** a problem is the fact that the NFD antenna is nowhere to be found! I have scoured WRR Towers once to no avail so unless a second scour (on the list for later today) proves successful I will have to make another one up - not that difficult but fiddly and time consuming. It is a 274ft doublet fed with open wire feeder and pullable links to shorten it to 86ft once 160m & 80m are finished by about 0300 UTC: fortunately there is enough spare open wire feeder available without having to make more, a task which really is the pits – and for some reason our cats seem to find the loose wire ends an irresistible temptation.

I have also rebuilt my old clunky rotary switch based antenna / ATU changeover unit (allowing single switch band change without having to retune ATUs or change them over which is time consuming). For some years we have used a relay based version that can be controlled directly from the operating position – but using mains relays at up to 30MHz is pushing the technology a bit and there is a suspicion that its use may have been contributing to our indifferent results. But to “back the horse both ways” we are also intending to try using an auto ATU. When using an auto ATU designed for coax fed antennas with a balanced antenna, it’s necessary to put a balun on the 50 ohm coax input and “float” the whole ATU. That requires the DC power feed to be “choked off”. This approach didn’t work too well last time we tried it, but is worth another go based on lessons learnt last time (In particular when making up the DC choke, splitting the winding into two halves across the toroid to reduce stray capacitive coupling is advisable: however that works better as a choke if the sense of the windings is arranged so that the fluxing adds rather than cancelling...). So more work required there!

Anyhow, now on to the main contents .....

## **73, Quin G3WRR**

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The May A meeting (held on 9<sup>th</sup> as the first Monday was a Bank Holiday) was a presentation by Chris Deacon G4IFX from the UK Six Meter Group (UKSMG) on 6m propagation. Chris had previously presented to SRCC via Zoom but opened by saying that he was happy to revisit in person as this was his first face-to-face presentation in over two years due to COVID! He said that he would be covering the same ground as the previous visit but in more detail and would also cover some new material relating to his studies in polarisation of 6m sporadic E signals, on which he is currently working towards a PhD. This was a well structured, clearly presented talk by a person who had a very thorough knowledge of his subject and was a real pleasure to attend. It was all fascinating stuff (particularly those like myself who have a particular interest in propagation) and I will try and do a write-up in a future Newsletter –time and brain fade precluded its inclusion this time around....

The May B meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> followed its usual format with John G8MNY and his test gear available to help out members with equipment problems and plenty of scope for members to chat.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

The June A meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> will be a Video Evening – the video to be displayed has not yet been decided.

The July A meeting (4<sup>th</sup>) will be a short talks session with three “mini lectures”. So far we have booked (perhaps one should say arm twisted):

- Ray G4FFY - linking rigs and computers
- Pater G3ZPB - latest upgrades to the Minos logging program
- Quin G3WRR - subject yet to be decided.

If any other members have a pet topic on which they would like to give us a talk (15 – 20 minutes or so). please let me know and we will fit you in!

The August A meeting is traditionally a social function with food and drink and this year will be no exception. A decision on the details has yet to be made: there are a number of options covering various aspects, including:

- when – in addition to specific dates (frequently a problem in August with members being away on holiday), should we go for (e.g.) an evening session or a weekend afternoon?
- what – traditional barbecue, “Pastyrama 2” (tried successfully last year) , or other?
- where – presumably at a member’s home, as Trinity School would be unlikely to appreciate smoke, charcoal ash, congealed fat and part eaten burgers in the Sandison Room....

If any members have any views, please let me know before the next Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June so that we can pin the details down.

The September A meeting (5<sup>th</sup>) will be a talk and demonstration of historic rigs from the 60s – 70s by Steve Shorey G3ZPS.

The October A meeting (3<sup>rd</sup>) will be a Surplus Equipment Sale, so bring along items that may be cluttering up your shack and convert them into ££ !

In December, we will be seeing a post-COVID return of the Inter Club Quiz. This year it will be hosted by Sutton and Cheam RS and, subject to confirmation, will be on 12<sup>th</sup> December (the second, rather than the first, Monday of the month) in Banstead. It has traditionally been between

SRCC, S&CRS and CATS but this year the hosts are considering inviting one or two more local clubs which should add to the fun! At the risk of “talking ourselves up”, before COVID intervened SRCC won it three years running: it would be a shame to break this tradition, so as I expect more than one team per club will be allowed please think about forming a team (up to five members) of your chums!

All B meetings will be on the third Monday of the month and will take the form of the well established Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat sessions with John G8MNY and his test gear unless notified otherwise here and on the website .

## **THESE SEEM BRILLIANT! by Steve G4FYF**

Hard to believe I know, but I have occasionally soldered the wrong, or, wrong value wired through hole component on a PCB! But, at times one has to replace a failed component.

To remove the component to remedy the situation I've used the usual means of solder braid, solder sucker, bashing PCB on bench, etc. These methods can be all a bit hit and miss.

I saw these featured on Youtube so thought I'd give them a go.



They are a set of hollow, stainless steel, needles; 0.8, 1.0, 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.8, 2.0 mm plus a 1 mm pointed punch needle available from Ebay. Essentially, select the needle size for the component lead, heat solder pad and push through to release component. Best watch Youtube videos on their use.

What is nice is that being stainless steel they don't take up solder and open plated through holes on double sided PCBs. Having used a few times, they are now my first go-to tool for the job.

**73 Steve**

## **VHF NFD**

That time of the year is looming again and VHF NFD is approaching! For near to a decade, SRCC have taken part in this event as part of North East Surrey Contest Group (NESCG) along with Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society (CATS) and Addiscombe ARC (AARC). Although we will

not be joined by AARC this year (they will be putting on an entry by themselves from Bignor Hill in Sussex), members of SRCC and CATS will be taking part again over the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> July. We will be using our usual site just off the B269 Limpsfield Road a mile or two South-East of Warlingham. Stations on 6m, 4m, 2m & 70cm will be operating as usual, with Peter G3ZPB in charge of the 70cm station, Alun G4WGE looking after 2m and myself running 6m & 4m.

Members and friends will be welcome to visit and do a bit of operating or just call in to say hello and see the stations: they may even be offered a cup of tea / coffee and a biscuit .... More details will follow in next month's Newsletter but for now here are a couple of pictures from last year:



**6m/4m STATION – G4ALE/P**



**G3ZPB (left) & G7PWV (right)  
OPERATING G3SRC/P on 70cm**

**73, Quin G3WRR**

## **SRCC – STAR OF STAGE, SCREEN....AND YOUTUBE!**

Thanks to Kim G6JXA for the information that members of SRCC have appeared twice recently on YouTube. Firstly, John G8MNY and Steve M0PEL supported the Crystal Palace Club putting on GB2M at Keston Mill on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> May as part of Windmills on the Air Weekend and both appear in the video produced by Damien 2E0EUI - this can be found at the following URL:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edjH4qIsPJ8> . And secondly, although he does not appear, Peter G3ZPB is mentioned by none other than Martin Lynch in a promotional video for Martin Lynch and Sons which can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQRMczvoGG8>.

**73, Quin G3WRR**

## **SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – APRIL 2022**

The number of entries received for the April 2022 League Table was one up on March at seven, although two of these were null entries. The monthly results are tabulated below. Ray G4FFY and Ian M0CGF retain top positions, with Steve G4FYF and Rick M0LEP moving up two places owing to the null entries from Colin G4LZE and Quin G3WRR: and it's good to see Peter G3ZPB returning to the listing.

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	59	6	34	164
M0CGF	43			86
G4FYF	17	1		36
M0LEP	13	4		34
G3ZPB	9	2	9	31
G4LZE				0
G3WRR				0

88% of Ray's scoring HF contacts were made using FT4/FT8 (37% in the RSGB FT4 contest) and the rest using SSB. The dominant band was 20m (39% of contacts) followed by 17m (27%), 40m (10%), and the balance fairly evenly distributed between 80m, 30m, 12m & 10m. They included all continents except Antarctica, with 75% being European, 14% Asian, 6% North American and Africa, South America and Oceania 2% (one contact...) each. On VHF, he had 10 scoring contacts in three DXCCs (F, G & GW). All but one were made in five different RSGB contests and fairly equally balanced between FT8 and SSB. He also had six scoring contacts with SRCC members. He notes that his lower than usual score was due to Easter and dog contests!

All but one of Ian's scoring contacts were made on the HF bands, using SSB. The other one was on 6m using FT8. Just under three quarters of his HF contacts were on 40m & 20m, with the rest on 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m and 6m. They included all continents except Antarctica. 60% were with European stations, 17% with South Americans, 14% with North Americans and the remainder divided between Asia, Africa and Oceania. One of several interesting ones was San Marino (T7) – in Europe but quite rare. Ian comments that life (mainly work) got in the way again. Most of his contacts were made mobile "in various parks" – some at least during a week's holiday in Guernsey.

Most of Peter's scoring contacts were intra-UK and made in the RSGB FT8 contest, but included two SRCC members – one at least being on a Club net.

Steve's scoring contacts were "same ol' European stuff" as he puts it. He adds "During the month some stations commented that all bands were fairly active. Not down here they weren't!".

Rick's scoring contacts were again somewhat limited by work in the garden. They were largely European but including one USA station, and mostly resulted from SOTA chasing taking advantage of the improved solar activity.

The annual cumulative listing is shown below: this month's only change to position is Rick moving up one place.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOT
G4FFY	166	153	207	164									690
M0CGF	102	87	108	86									383
G3ZPB	90	123	0	31									244
G4FYF	36	42	68	36									182
G3WRR	0	66	60	0									126
G4LZE	0	73	42	0									115
M0LEP	18	26	20	34									98
G3SRC	66	15	0	0									81

Solar cycle 25 is finally going well: the SFI has been fluctuating up and down – but has been on a minor downward turn for the last few days. With HF NFD next weekend I have been watching things carefully and am hoping for a further upturn: but at least the sun is impartial and will largely affect all entrants equably – and in any case what will be will be!

## 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.....

A slightly reduced length Newsletter this month. Entries from members are always welcome and provide a bit of variety, preventing it becoming too much of a monoculture – so please get scribbling! Or if you don't like scribbling, pictures will be welcome too.

See you next month....

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