



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

MAY 2024 – No 981

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Club Website:	https://www.srcc.uk	

MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm
Meetings at St Paul's URC, Croham Park Avenue, Croydon CR2 7HF

1st MEETING Monday 13th May: VHF NFD video and preparation
2nd MEETING Monday 20th May: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

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
Treasurer, Membership & Liaison	G4FFY Ray Howells	07921 567651
Events	G6JXA Kim Brown	07812 735507
Webmaster	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143
Publicity	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Trophy Manager	G7RUX Jason Gardner	07515 357630
VHF NFD Co-ordinator (Co-opted)	G3ZPB Peter Burton	07989 557888

EDITOR'S OPENER

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

If you are a regular attender at SRCC meetings, you will probably be aware that Peter Burton G3ZPB has been in deteriorating health for a while now. Unfortunately, this necessitated him being taken into Croydon University Hospital (formerly Mayday Hospital) for a few days although he was subsequently discharged to home where he is under medical care. I'm sure we all wish him, his wife Wendy and family best wishes.

I have been away for a few days by myself (although taking the opportunity to up with some old friends – alas most of my friends are old now...) at Totnes in Devon for a break and will be going up to Lincolnshire for a few more days with my daughter and granddaughter in mid-May. Alas, the rain has led to a verdant garden which will need attention on my return!

I recently had a visit from George Emsden M0TPH, an SRCC member who gave us a talk on the search for extra-terrestrial life (the Drake equation and all that) a few years ago. He lives in Muswell Hill so it's not too easy for him to get to club meetings. He was returning an FT847 that I

had lent to him a year or two ago and we had an enjoyable chat over tea and biscuits: it's good to see that life seems to be treating him well and we hope to see him again in due course.

I hope all is well with the readers and look forward to seeing you soon.

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

April A meeting (8th) 2023/4 Annual General Meeting. A set on notes will be distributed in due course, but for now key items were:

- meeting chaired by G3MCX
- attendance by 14 members and one guest – meeting hence quorate
- presentation on 2023/4 activities by G3MCX and G3WRR
- presentation on 2023/4 finances and membership by G4FFY: finances in good shape (hence no increase in membership fee required) although membership numbers were slightly down
- the 2023/4 accounts were certified by Peter G7PWV
- Secretary (G3WRR) and Committee members (G3MCX, G4FFY, G4FYF, G4LZE, G6JXA, G7RUX) were elected without the need for a vote
- officers were elected as follows:
 - Chairman G4LZE
 - Vice-Chairman G7RUX
 - Treasurer G4FFY
- discussion of possibly “hybrid meetings” (ie. Face to face plus remote attendance) took place. G4FFY presented an analysis conducted by himself and G3ZPB indicating that a basic set would be required consisting of:
 - two cameras plus tripods
 - two microphones
 - audio/visual mixer
 - trolley (to tote it all around)
 - (dedicated laptop **not** required).

An indicative cost of around £1200 would be involved. Considerable discussion followed in which it was recognised that there were potential advantages but also disadvantages. In summary it was agreed that:

- If introduced it should not be used for all meetings: not for B meetings and at A meetings when circumstances are appropriate (e.g. for external remote speakers)
- a trial should be organised to see how it worked in practice
- time did not permit discussion of topics such as potential topics for future meetings but members were encouraged to raise / discuss post-meeting with Committee members.

April B meeting (22nd) This followed the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format and a trial Teams setup was organised by Jason G7RUX with Peter G3ZPB, Colin G4LZE and Ray G4FFY attending remotely. It was promising and worked quite well.

FUTURE MEETINGS

May A meeting (13th) Again this will be the second Monday of the month as a result of the high concentration of Bank Holidays at this time of year! The focus will be VHF National Field Day

which takes place this year on the weekend of 6th / 7th July. It will open with a replay of one of the RSGB “Tonight at Eight” video series describing what VHF NFD is all about and showing a video of a Scottish group’s participation in 2023. This should give previous non-attenders a chance to see what it is like and consider whether they might like to join the usual suspects in 2024! This will be followed by a discussion of SRCC’s intended participation in 2024. (For the last decade or so our activity has been from a site on Warlingham Ridge as part of North-East Surrey Contest Group - a loose confederation of SRCC, Coulsdon ATS (CATS), Addiscombe ARC (in earlier years) and a few non-club aligned individuals and we expect this to be the case this year too). It will be a chance to plot out what we intend to do, what section to enter, etc. and put together outline plans while we still have eight weeks to hammer out the details.

May B meeting (20th) This will follow the current Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format.

June A meeting (3rd) 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 is expected to open with a demonstration of their operation (what they can do and how to drive them), followed perhaps by a discussion for those already partially “skilled in the art” on how to upload new software versions.

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

73, Quin G3WRR

TED JONES G3EUE (SILENT KEY)

The sad news of Ted’s death on 24th January has been reported in an earlier issue of the Newsletter. Ted had almost certainly been in SRCC longer than any other current member (and, at 101, certainly the oldest). In attempting to create a kind of “In Memoriam” for him of the type we did for Maurice, Prim and John (G4DDY / G4CCY / G3ENG), details of Ted’s history and an anecdote or two were sought from the membership – but apart from expressions of regret, only one anecdote was received. I guess that this was because he had moved from the Croydon area before many of the current membership had joined. I personally never met Ted (apart from possibly once very briefly 30+ years ago) but in the last five years or so we got into the habit of exchanging e-mails when he submitted his entries for the Club League Table and I grew to like him from afar. I was particularly impressed by his fluent use of the English language. I don’t mean that as a euphemism for “he swore a lot” – I don’t think I ever experienced him using any rude words... Rather I was impressed by the way he (for an elderly gent) used his mother tongue (are we allowed to say “mother tongue” any more?!) and particularly by his wry sense of humour. So, the word picture that follows is based largely on those e-mails and as such presents a highly selective picture based on unfocused e-mail chatter! Anyhow, here goes....

As far as I can tell, Ted was raised in the Croydon area: he says *“Back in the thirties I sat the entrance exam for Whitgift Middle (now Trinity School, and at the time located at what is now the Whitgift Centre) but failed and finished up at Selhurst where I managed to achieve nothing!”*

He goes on to say *“My service life had an interesting start. In the 1930s I was a keen member of a local Scout Group and one of the helpers was, I believe, the deputy editor of the Short Wave Magazine, L.H.Thomas, G6QB. One evening he gave a talk to those in the 18/19 age group and suggested that we were all likely to be called up for military service and if we were looking for something interesting to do we should opt for something in signals in any of the Services. By volunteering now one might achieve one’s preference, if rejected then one waited for call-up. I had*

spent time in the school cadets and didn't fancy the Army so I applied for training as a wireless operator with the RAF Volunteer Reserve, which I joined at Cardington. The kit I was issued with included a one-pint china mug which survived five years of daily use and still does what it was designed for all that time ago. [See picture below]. Fit to fly but unfit for aircrew, I started training at Blackpool in April 1941. After square-bashing and passing the 12 wpm Morse test I was posted to Compton Bassett to complete the wireless training. Less than a year later I was in Iraq! So far as military activity was concerned I saw more when I was in the LDV and Home Guard than I ever did in the RAF!

During the War I had one amusing contact. I was on duty in the Met. office at RAF Habbaniya [55 miles west of Baghdad] when the boss man said there was a personal phone call for me from a Flight Lieutenant Carter - who was he? I had to explain that he was my uncle who was with a unit en-route to the Middle East from the Persian Gulf. We met at the Naafi, and I had to salute him! He had been in the army in WW1 and worked in Hong Kong until he retired in 1938. The army rejected him in 1939 but the RAF took him on. I believe he was in demob group 1. I returned to the UK late in 1945 and was demobbed a year later. Someone around that time must have introduced me to Amateur Radio so that was how it all started”.

After military service, he appears to have moved back to the Croydon area as for a considerable time he lived at Hartley Down in Purley. During this time, he met and married Daphne (a traditional name that one very rarely hears these days) in around 1950 and they had three children, Nick, Tim and Simon. It was also in this phase of his life that he became a member of SRCC. He says “I have great memories of my many friends at the club dating back to Sid Morley (G3FWR) who was my first ever contact using a chirpy 2 watt TX!” and “thinking about the Old Guard: Maurice G4DDY's name always came up in association with the likes of Bernie Wynn (G8TB), Nobby Headland (G3BFP) and so on”.

The following anecdote from this period comes from Steve G4FYF: “I knew Ted from early/mid 70's. Memory is of Ted and Bernie (G8TB) commandeering the night shift on 4 meters on the VHF Field Day at Canterbury. They were digging out and working CW stations I couldn't even hear! If you entered the ops tent during this time and started talking they would, in no uncertain terms, advise you to keep quiet! By the way, the antenna rotator system 'designed' by G8TB was a chopped-up bike frame, the crank used to turn a chain linked to a bevel gear connected to pole running out the tent to a modified car jack upon which the antenna mast was connected. A 'calibrated' hand written circular card was mounted on the crank bit to show [somewhat approximately] antenna direction. It all worked! Truly pioneering stuff in the ham spirit! “.

In around 1980, Ted and Daphne moved to Bramber in Sussex where he became a member of Worthing and District ARC. Their children Nick and Tim had by this time moved to Western Australia and Tasmania (a.k.a VK6 and VK7), married and raised families of their own. Ted and Daphne made a dozen or so trips to visit them after he retired, travelling via several places of interest along the way such as Borneo and Singapore. “Daphne would love to have more contact but unfortunately that is (now) difficult and I certainly would not want to do that journey again”. The third son, Simon, now lives in Partridge Green in West Sussex, about six miles from Bramber and has increasingly been keeping an eye on them and in early 2023 “comes here every day to prepare a meal for the three of us; a couple of hours socialising and then off back to Partridge Green. A lot of his spare time is spent working on the house. We would be in some difficulty if he didn't help”.

In Ted's 99th year he, Daphne and Simon took a week's holiday aboard a 45ft narrow boat on the Brecon & Monmouth Canal. A couple of pictures from the trip are attached below and a description of the whole trip is on the Club website Newsletter archive for November 2021 – well

worth a read!

On reaching his century, Ted comments *“The royal card came with the envelope stamped and marked First Class and Royal Mail! We are making a bit of a collection of her cards because we already have one to acknowledge that Daphne and I have been married for over 70 years”*.

In April 2023 he e-mailed to say *“I managed to upset the routine by having a minor fall. It has left me with a little bruising and a sore arm which will take a while to clear”*. It often seems to happen that with elderly folk an incident which is relatively minor in itself leads to a more general decline in health and it appears likely that this happened in Ted’s case. He ceased submitting entries for the SRCC League Table and although we still exchanged e-mails these became less frequent and less animated. I finally received an e-mail from Phil G4UDU (who lives in the next village) with the sad news that he died peacefully in his sleep on 24th January this year.

I will conclude with a few examples of his wry sense of humour as that is how I will best remember him:

“I keep plodding along despite the lower levels of sight, hearing and teeth”

“Fortunately I am reasonably house trained”

(Of conditions during his skeds with G3FVO) *“Occasionally excellent but normally awful”*

(Of school) *“I managed to achieve nothing!”*

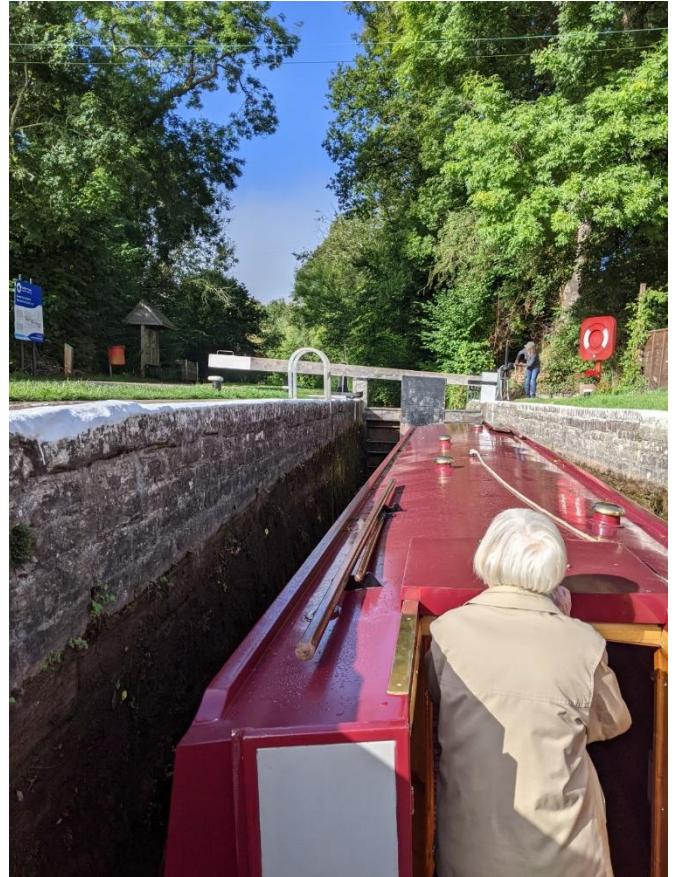
(Of his 100th birthday card from the Queen) *We are making a bit of a collection of her cards because we already have one to acknowledge that Daphne and I have been married for over 70 years”*.

(Following his fall in 2023) *“Am not sure whether I tripped or what but not to be recommended as a pastime ! Fortunately the furniture was not damaged”*

Farewell Ted – you will be missed!



TED G3EUE’S 1941 ISSUE RAF MUG STILL SERVICEABLE TODAY!



BRECON & MONMOUTH CANAL TRIP 2021 – TED G3EUE & XYL DAPHNE

Quin G3WRR

WANTED!

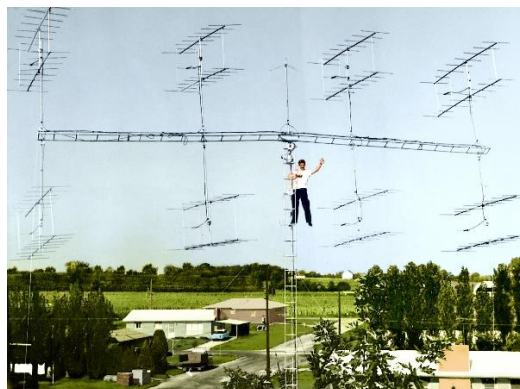


John G8MNY needs a 3-500Z valve for a Drake L4 linear. This uses a pair of 3-500Z valves in the PA stage and one of them is rather low on output. If you can help him, please contact him at the club or on 020 8688 3089.

HERE AND THERE

Thanks to Steve G4FYF for the following:

“On the radio last night was something about Bob Heil who died last Feb aged 83. He was an acoustic engineer and in the late '60s worked with bands The Grateful Dead and The Who to greatly enhance / improve the acoustic quality of live music concerts. He was a licenced amateur radio operator, K9EID, and later designed and manufactured microphones/headsets for amateur radio and broadcasters. *[Editor’s comment – many of us will be aware of, and perhaps own, Heil headsets which are renowned for their good audio quality]*”



That'll impress the neighbours!”

There are a couple of other snippets from Steve G4FYF, but these will be stood over till next month.

Another piece of sad news is that MFJ (and its sister companies Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vecronics) will be ceasing production in May. The company was started 52 years ago by Martin F. Jue (hence the name MFJ...) who holds the call K5FLU. The company, like many others, was hit badly by COVID, and Martin who is now 80 years of age has decided it's time for a break. But the news is softened by the fact that stock in hand will continue to be sold – and MFJ will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – MARCH 2024

Five entries were received for the March League Table, the same as in February. Although Peter G3ZPB was not able to submit an entry this time, it is good to see any entry from Ian M0CGF despite having to spend time working in Bangladesh. The monthly results are as shown below:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0CGF	50			100
G4FFY	43		3	89
G4FYF	32	1	2	68
G3WRR	14		14	42
M0LEP	9	1		20

The following notes come from the entrants...

M0CGF: *Had a few weeks at home, managed a bit of mobile and some work from home. Back to Bangladesh early May I think!*

G4FFY: *It was a very quiet month with a token entry in the 144+432MHz March 2024 Contest. No March FT4 Contest as at the Club and the March UKACS coincided with our Northern Lights and Lapland Tour. As of end-March 2024 I'm still on 161 DXCC's.*

G4FYF: *Radio activity somewhat slack for most of March. Some time spent on WPX contest over Easter weekend made March entry a bit more respectable. Majority of QSOs on 10 meters.*

G3WRR: *All contacts made in the Commonwealth Contest (BERU) but fewer exotic Commonwealth countries on this year.*

M0LEP: *I didn't even get my radio out of its box in Kenya this time, as there was too much family stuff going on. However, I did get a little on-air time during March from mostly not so sunny Dursley.*

The cumulative scores are shown below. Being early in the League Table year, cumulative positions are rather more volatile than they will be later on. Nevertheless the two top stations retain their February positions, with G4FYF moving up one place to third, displacing G3WRR to fourth. M0CGF's first entry brings him into the table in fifth place moving M0LEP down one place to sixth.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4FFY	114	223	89										426
G3ZPB	69	83											152
G4FYF	28	40	68										136
G3WRR	63	18	42										123
M0CGF			100										100
M0LEP	14	22	20										56

The SFI continues to be volatile but remains well ahead of predictions with just over a year until the forecast peak of cycle 25. Another noticeable factor is that the A & K indices have also been volatile and higher than usual, which is believed to have led to 10m conditions in BERU not being as good as expected. Without looking scientifically at the correlation between SFI / A&K numbers it does feel as if they may be related. Hmm...time to go and revisit "Sun, Earth and Radio" by J.A.Ratcliffe which is my bible on the subject...

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.....

Thanks all for this month. Inputs from members are always welcome so if you are feeling creative, please do let me have something to include.

73, Quin G3WRR
Secretary and Newsletter Editor