



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

NOVEMBER 2024 – No. 987

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| General Club Business: secretary@srcc.uk Membership/Treasurer: membership@srcc.uk Newsletter articles/distribution: newsletter@srcc.uk Club Equipment Loan: equipment@srcc.uk Club Website: https://www.srcc.uk | Honorary Secretary & Editor: Quin Collier G3WRR 19 Grangecliffe Gardens, LONDON, SE25 6SY Tel: 020 8653 6948 |
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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 4th November: “Show and Tell” session
2nd MEETING Monday 18th November: 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 |

EDITOR'S OPENER

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

It has been a rather medically focused month for some of the SRCC Committee and their families. Ray G4FFY underwent a medical procedure involving the insertion of stents in his ureters (the tubes that link the kidneys and bladder) to ease the load on his kidneys. And Caroline (Ray's wife) and myself have both had cataract operations to improve deteriorating vision. Although the latter were carried out under local anaesthetic allowing a fairly rapid (couple of hours) release to home, for myself it was hardly a pleasant experience: local anaesthetics are one thing but somehow having a procedure on an eye while fully conscious was, for me, rather unpleasant – not painful but nonetheless a bit disturbing. It seems that Caroline found it easier to cope with than I did – but perhaps that is because ladies are made of sterner stuff than us wimpy men! But I think we are both finding better vision – in one eye at least – is a liberating experience. Overall, all three patients are progressing well!

the October A meeting with a ceramic mug (see picture below). I was told that this was in recognition of my contribution to VHF NFD related activities as part of North East Surrey Contest Group (NESCAG) over the past few years, culminating in a seriously wet, miserable and only partly successful event in July this year. Pictures in the August issue of the Newsletter may give an idea of the experience...Not only does the mug show my callsign and a humorous (but depressingly realistic) depiction of an amateur radio station, but it can hold around 50% more liquid than a typical mug: this is well suited to my habit of consuming large quantities of tea. Many thanks for the thought folks – it really is appreciated and remains my mug of choice!

Also attended was the RSGB Convention at Milton Keynes on the weekend of 13th/14th October. There were several lecture / activity streams covering a wide range of topics, but personally I was quite heavily involved with the team preparing the wide range of contest trophies for presentation by RSGB President John McCullagh MBE G14BWM to the winners. See picture below!



MUG PRESENTED TO G3WRR AT OCTOBER A MEETING



STARS OF STAGE, SCREEN AND RSGB CONVENTION - G3WRR (left) and G4WGE (right) BEING PRESENTED WITH IOTA CONTEST AWARD PLAQUE BY RSGB PRESIDENT G14BWM (centre).

(Acknowledgement with thanks to Ian G0FCT for use of the picture).



And here is a last minute item from the day on which this is being written! We were approached recently by Steven Wynn, one of the sons of long time SRCC member Bernie Wynn G8TB, asking if the club would be interested in acquiring the very last of Bernie's radio gear. I went over and picked this up the morning from Steven's house at Great Bookham, and the haul consists of a large box (62cm x 46cm x 25cm - or 2ft x 18" x 10" in English) full to the brim with valves – probably more than 100 of them - and a Skopex 4D!0 scope. The Cunning Plan is to bring these along to the next Surplus Equipment Sale early next year, and Steven has generously said the proceeds should go to club funds. But if any member is interested before then please let me know and we can sort something out. I had quite a long chat with Steven who was a very pleasant guy who had worked in the electronics industry all his life – mainly on the computing and data comms side. Unlike his brother who was licensed he never developed an interest in amateur radio. Before leaving I took the picture shown here of him and his wife Jane which may be of interest to those who knew Bernie.

So here we go....

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

October A meeting (7th) Surplus Equipment Sale. This was the autumn opportunity for members to buy and sell previously used, possibly previously loved and hopefully still working equipment – and conversely the opportunity to pass on to others items acquired at the previous sales! Gareth G4XAT as usual acted as auctioneer with Ray G4FFY tracked the flow of money. Total takings were £100 of which £59 (including £10 commission) went into club funds.

October B meeting (21st) This was the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format session. Pat G4FDN also offered free of charge a few outstanding items that had escaped the sale a fortnight previously.

FUTURE MEETINGS

November A meeting (4th) “Show and Tell” evening. This will be a fairly informal session at which members can come along and display and/or describe anything they have been doing recently

that might interest other members There is no need for pre-booking or detailed preparation (e.g. slide packs) and typical duration could be ten minutes per item but that is flexible. So please come along and show us your latest!

November B meeting (18th) This will be the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format session.

December A meeting (2nd) Video evening – from RSGB “Tonight at Eight” series - choice of topic to be made: suggestions welcome.....

December B meeting (16th) This will differ from the usual B meeting format, although there will no 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 – all served on a tasteful tablecloth!

SRCC's 90th ANNIVERSARY APPROACHING!

The article in last month's Newsletter seeking suggestions resulted in a couple of inputs which seemed to favour an evening meal – but a fairly informal one without dinner jackets and the like. A couple of venues well suited to such events have been suggested, but these were not very local which might act as a disincentive. So suggestions for venues rather closer to Croydon would be welcome – as would suggestions for alternative formats.

73, Quin G3WRR

IT'S AFS TIME AGAIN.....

Regular readers will be aware that around this time of year the Newsletter includes a reminder about the Affiliated Societies Contests.

Every year the RSGB runs a set of contests, currently eight, each year for its Affiliated Societies (of which the SRCC is one). These cover a range of bands and modes between 160m and 70cm, thus providing something of interest for a wide selection of amateurs. Their focus is on the performance of clubs as teams, rather than on individual “star stations”. For this reason, club entries are based on teams of up to four stations. Clubs can enter as many stations as they like in each event, but their entries are grouped by the RSGB Contest Committees into teams of up to four. As SRCC is not a particularly contest-oriented club I am not aware of us ever having got more than one team on – however some of the more contest-active clubs have in the past managed to field up to five teams....

Each of these contests stands in its own right, but in addition, the results of the individual contests are aggregated together by the RSGB (in a manner that is fair but not easily explained...) to form an additional and separate event – the AFS Super League. This year (or, more accurately, this cycle since the series runs between late 2024 and early 2025) there are eight contests in the series, running between 50MHz AFS in September 2024 and 432MHz AFS in February 2024. By the time you read this, we will be two contests into the 2024/25 cycle and SRCC managed to get one station on in the 6m event, with G3WRR in making 13 QSOs taking 43rd position out of 56 entries).

The reason for publishing this item now is to point out that the remaining six contests in the cycle take place between the first weeks of January & February 2025, and – if you hadn't guessed by now – to encourage members to participate! This could either be full participation including log submission or just coming on to work other club members – but if you do the latter, it's generally regarded as poor form to work only those in your own club, so working a few other stations as well would be good. Certainly, contesting is not to everyone's taste and there is no pressure at all on you to do so – but if you have a bit of spare time on the dates / times listed below, why not come on and work a few? You might find something new that you like within the hobby! The details of the remaining contests are shown below, along with a link to the rules:

| DAY | DATE | EVENT | TIME (UTC) | MODE(S) |
|----------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Saturday | 9th November 2024 | Club Calls (1.8MHz) | 2000 – 2300 | CW, SSB |
| Sunday | 8th December 2024 | 144MHz AFS | 1000 - 1400 | See note below |
| Sunday | 5th January 2025 | 80-40m AFS (CW) | 1300 – 1700 | CW |
| Saturday | 11th January 2025 | 80-40m AFS (SSB) | 1300 – 1700 | SSB |
| Sunday | 19th January 2025 | 80-40m AFS (data) | 1300 – 1700 | RTTY, PSK63 |
| Sunday | 2nd February 2025 | 432MHz AFS | 0900 – 1300 | See note below |

Note: Permitted modes are SSB, CW, FM, AM, JT6M, ISCAT, FSK441 – but SSB will be **very much** the most common.

The full rules are shown at this URL: <https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2024/rSL-thisandnext.shtml>

HERE AND THERE

Ray G4FFY has recently sent me a number of pictures of SRCC activities going back 15 years and more. These may be of interest to both members of longer standing and to newer member who would like to see what former members they hear talked about looked like! The intention was to start “drip feeding” these into the Newsletter of a period of a few months. However they are stubbornly hiding somewhere in my directory system so they will have to wait till next time!



In last month's “Here and There” I mentioned my intention of visiting the Wings Museum near Balcombe in Sussex to visit a “run day” for a static Rolls Royce Merlin engine recovered from a Halifax Bomber that had crashed in Germany during WW2. I did make the visit and am seriously glad I did. These pictures give a good impression of the show! After being a bit fussy about starting (excusable after being buried in a bog for 70 years) it ran smoothly at up to 2000 r.p.m. The “blurring” of the propeller in the third picture proves that it was all kosher! As the guy who was presenting the show had been involved in the rebuild (only around 10% of new parts were required) he was a wonderful fount of detailed knowledge.



Even without a running engine, the museum is well worth a trip – maybe not a whole day but a good half day. It perhaps lacks the polish of places like the RAF Museum at Hendon but makes up for that by being full of exhibits (in various states of repair) collected and assembled by real enthusiasts. Do consider a visit – see website at <https://www.wingsmuseum.co.uk>

Many thanks to Michael Somers for sending me the extract (in two panels) on the next page from the Daily Telegraph of 1st August 1924 – interesting to see how the future of broadcasting was seen just over a century ago!

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WIRELESS ON THE FARM.

By R. W. HALLOWS.

No member of the community probably is so affected by the vagaries of the weather as the farmer. An unexpected spell of wet at hay-time or during harvest, a frost that comes without warning, or a hot, dry period when he looks for rain, may cause heavy losses. If only he could have some idea of what the weather would be like a month or even a week ahead the farmer's lot would be very much lightened, and loss through spoilt or damaged crops would be greatly reduced. The science of meteorology has made enormous strides in the last few years, largely owing to the importance from the point of view of aviation of being able to predict the weather conditions likely to prevail for the next twenty-four hours, at all events, and, if possible, for longer periods.

The science of weather prediction has come nowadays to be so accurate that its prophecies are of the utmost use to the farmer. A statement of the probable conditions that will prevail in each of the areas into which the British Isles are divided for meteorological purposes is issued every evening by the Air Ministry, and is transmitted from every station of the British Broadcasting Company. These forecasts are for the ensuing twenty-four hours, but attention is always called to the likelihood of there being a spell of wet or fine weather, to the possibility of frosts or thunderstorms, and to any other points that may affect the farmer.

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18th July, aged 9...
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...casts are for the ensuing twenty...
...but attention is always called to the likelihood...
...of there being a spell of wet or fine weather, to...
...the possibility of frosts or thunderstorms, and...
...to any other points that may affect the farmer.

SIMPLE SETS.

It is within the power of any farmer to receive these forecasts at very small cost indeed by installing a simple wireless set, which, besides enabling him to receive them, will also provide both him and his household with a never-failing source of entertainment. For those who live within twenty-five miles of a broadcasting station a simple crystal set will suffice. The total outlay of this need not exceed a couple of pounds, in addition to which it is necessary to have a receiving license, obtainable, at any post office, which costs 10s a year. Dwellers in places more distant from a broadcasting station will require to use valve sets. Until quite recently a valve set meant an accumulator, which must be charged at frequent intervals; but now the dull emitter valve, which can be worked with complete success off ordinary dry cells, has very greatly simplified the problem of the man who lives far from any source of electrical supply. A good single valve set should have a range of fifty miles or more, and with two valves there is no place in this country which is out of range of one or more of the broadcasting stations. The outlay upon a valve set will be from £5 to £10, and the same annual license is required.

Wireless sets to-day are so simple that they can be operated satisfactorily even by those who have not the slightest knowledge of the subject. There are available a number of little books on wireless from which the beginner can learn all that he needs to know in the simplest possible way. Wireless is now within the reach of everyone, and the farmer will find that even if he uses it for nothing else the weather forecasts which it gives him will repay the outlay upon the receiving set.

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SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – SEPTEMBER 2024

| ENTRANT | WORKED DXCC / SQUARE | WORKED SRCC MEMBER | WORKED IN CONTEST | POINTS THIS MONTH |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| G4FFY | 35 | 1 | 31 | 103 |
| M0CGF | 39 | | | 78 |
| G4FYF | 25` | 1 | | 52 |
| M0LEP | 1 | 1 | | 4 |
| G3WRR | | | | 0 |

It is very good to have an entry this month from Ian M0CGF who has been unable to participate for a few months due to a house move and work commitments. As a result the number of entrants is

up by one to five (although this again includes a “no points” entry from Quin G3WRR). Positions are the same as in August with the exception of Ian’s entry number two which displaces those below him by one place.

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 | | | | 1281 |
| G4FYF | 28 | 40 | 68 | 38 | 30 | 70 | 52 | 68 | 52 | | | | 446 |
| G3WRR | 63 | 18 | 42 | | 45 | | 30 | | | | | | 207 |
| M0LEP | 14 | 22 | 20 | 46 | 22 | 14 | 22 | 38 | 4 | | | | 202 |
| M0CGF | | | 100 | 86 | | | | | 78 | | | | 264 |
| G3ZPB | 69 | 83 | | | | | | | | | | | 152 |

Although the positions have not changed since last month (As one might expect at this stage of the year) Ray’s impressive lead continues to grow.

The following notes are provided by the entrants...

G4FFY: *September was another low activity month (partly due to the surgery referred to above) with the 70m UKAC and 2m FT8 as my only VHF contest entries. Pat G4FDN and I did some experiments with VarAC and had a QSO on 2m. 40m would have been easier as our beacons between us were stronger but SSB activity was interfering! On HF, entered the FT4 contest and did an hour in the UKEI SSB contest. DXCC’s worked has not been increased and is still at 162.*

M0CGF: *All moved in now up at Mapledale Avenue, finally!!! Rigged up a 12m Spiderpole for 40m/15m and a homebrew set of verticals with a load of radials for 30,20,17,12,10m. Thats for October though not this month! Hearing so much more, less noise floor and I think a better location. The verticals are pulling in some great DX on FT8 at the moment. Not managed to get the 6m beam up yet, will sit on that a while, so I get to know the neighbours! The hexbeam in the shed can wait also!! Anyway my entry this month all done /P from the Car either at Woldingham Ridge, Titsey Place or a couple of places up near Oxford for World Castles, WWFF and POTA.*

G4FYF: *Usual European contacts on 7 and 20 meters. !0 meters remained active to outside Europe bringing in Oman, Kazakhstan Canada and USA.*

M0LEP: *It seems that activity on the air has been a little limited in the last month. Partly that's been down to having house guests, partly down to weather, and partly down to other distractions. For one, I've been building a QRPLabs QMX kit, an exercise requiring a good magnifier and a steady hand. I had hoped to have it working for our trip to Germany this week, but it looks like I'll be lugging the KX3 there instead.*

G3WRR: *[Null entry]*

The continuing high solar activity has continued, with its dual (conflicting) impacts resulting from the high solar flux and the raised A & K indices. These have certainly impacted on the bands with

stonking activity on 10m in the recent CQ WW SSB contest (several stations reported working all zones except one on the band) and over half the entrants in the 6m UKAC reporting auroral conditions. Both these occurrences are rare indeed!

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 as always for the inputs. See you next month.

73, Quin G3WRR
SRCC Secretary and Newsletter Editor