



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

**85th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935**

**JUNE 2020 – No 934**

**SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy**

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**Face-to-face meetings currently suspended for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic – more details below...**

## SRCC COMMITTEE 2019/20

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## EDITOR'S OPENER

I have been scratching my head (perhaps too much of that in the past is responsible for my current lack of hair ...) to think of much meaningful to say here – but the impact of lockdown means that life just continues as a routine, and here at Chez WRR it has largely been a case of “keep on keeping on” to quote Bob Dylan in his 1974(ish) album “Blood On The Tracks”. The main difference from normal here has been the opportunity to give the garden a well overdue tidy up....I have never been a keen gardener, mainly seeing the role of gardens as being somewhere to put antennas up – and for me the subtler aspects of horticulture never got beyond the “Napalm and Paraquat” stage... but it’s surprising what you pick up! I hope you are making more constructive use of your time than that. But all things come to an end and it is good to see a gradual relaxation of the rules. May it continue at a sensible, measured rate...

A fairly broad range of stuff this month so let’s go....

## 73, Quin G3WRR

## FUTURE MEETINGS

It is intended to hold a virtual A meeting at 8pm clock time on 1<sup>st</sup> June, using Webex. This will consist of a fairly short presentation by Quin G3WRR on Grey Line Propagation, followed by a managed Round Robin session allowing all attendees to provide a brief summary of what they have been doing. To access the session, those who have the Cisco Webex App already installed on their computers the following information will be needed:

**Meeting number = 113 184 4434**

**Meeting password = 2Vi4M9MRSZD**

An e-mail will be sent in advance to all members with a link allowing them to join the meeting.

It is also intended that we will continue with virtual meetings until the lockdown restrictions ease up – but we are also beginning to plan for the resumption of face to face meetings. Since we (like every other organisation in the UK) have no idea as to when normality (although not necessarily the normality we have been accustomed to) will return, the timeline here is based on a “month zero” concept in which month zero is the month in which Trinity School reopens. Current thinking, without looking too far ahead, is as follows:

**Month 0** – at some point in the month, Trinity School again becomes available for meetings

**Month 1** – A meeting: Annual General Meeting, B meeting: Fix-it

**Month 2** – A meeting: Surplus Equipment Sale, B meeting: Fix-it

**Month 3** – A meeting: Construction Contest, B meeting: Fix-it.

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Around 14 members attended a virtual B meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May, consisting of a Round Robin session to allowed participants to say what they have been doing – much like a traditional face to face Fix-It session but without John G8MNY’s test gear! This worked well, and the success of this has encouraged us to hold further virtual meetings (see above).

## CHAIRMAN’S BLOG

Hello everyone – what strange times we are still living in! I wrote to a friend in an email yesterday

“Big excitement here half-an-hour ago....our fortnightly Waitrose order arrived”. It comes to something when that was exciting, but I’m sure many of you will empathise with me.

Actually, far more exciting for me during the past month has been working still more new DXCC entities; this time OK2 (Czech republic), 9K2 (Kuwait) and LX1 (Luxembourg) all using FT8 and an SSB QSO with the Orkney Islands; now I know the Orkneys counts as part of GM land but it doesn’t have a particularly large Amateur population. Also, I know none of this is real DX but it gives me a thrill!

I also entered the 2m UKAC contest earlier this month; my first 2m contest for more years than I can remember (possibly my first ever). I didn’t do particularly well, coming 144<sup>th</sup> of 221 entries, but it’s the taking part that counts! Also entered the 70cms UKAC but no results yet.

The other main Radio operation during the month was operating the Callsign GB75PEACE. This was an “interesting” experience - in spite of testing everything the day before, when I switched on ready to operate, the gremlins hit and the main MicroHam box that interfaces the shack to the rig wouldn’t load up properly so I was half-an-hour late starting. Then started by calling CQ; after 15 minutes of no reply decided FT8 was a better bet and off we went! The subsequent band-hopping was at the request of the RSGB Contest Club (who organise the event) - there are a number of awards available for working different bands on different days and so we are encouraged to operate on as many bands as possible, particularly on 10m and 15m. Six hours in the shack produced a total of 35 QSOs - not a very good return!

HF propagation conditions were terrible at the time as evidenced by this poor return.

To put these 3 radio activities into perspective – for the 2m UKAC I claimed 4254 points from 35 QSOs; for the 70cms UKAC, I claimed 6017 points from 56 QSOs. So, I had over 50% more QSOs in 2 hours on 70cms than 5 hours with GB75PEACE on HF or 2 hours on 2m - and people wonder why 70cms is my favourite band??? The interesting thing about 2m/70cms UKACs is that basically the station is almost the same performance on both bands (same rig, same antenna at the same height) and yet I did so much better on 70cms. The only difference is a masthead pre-amp on 70cms; maybe I ought to get one for 2m???

As many of you know, SRCC meetings have resumed, although in a “Virtual” form. We are experimenting with 3 different “formats” – the “streaming” service provided by the BATV Club, “Zoom” and “Webex”. They all have their advantages and disadvantages but we are inclining towards Webex as best suited to our needs and the first June meeting will be a “talk” given by Quin using Webex. We hope you will all be able to cope with the technology and join in.

Those of you who read my piece last month may remember my “re-grassing” efforts. Well, I am happy to report that area of the garden is doing so well that I expect to get the lawn mower out during the next few days and give it its first trim.

That’s all for this month from me, so I hope you all manage to stay safe, well and healthy and continue to talk to some of you on the radio and see you at Quin’s next Virtual Meeting.

**73 and 88, Peter G3ZPB**

## SPY MESSAGES 1950 TO THE PRESENT by PAUL G7VAK

This piece was originally written for the Science Museum London for use in the now closed GCHQ: Top Secret Exhibition, from Codes to Cipher. When it was presented I was told to rewrite it to make it appeal for the target visitors; children. In addition to this I was sent a script from another volunteer that was stated to be suitable. I had seen and heard it presented and in no way was it ever intended, or suitable for a young audience. The result is I withdrew my piece for use elsewhere.

With the cessation of hostilities in WW2 the Cold War quickly emerged. Diplomatic Posts worldwide used Short Wave radio to communicate; the accepted mode was Morse. Many operators were ex-military with good speeds. Diplomatic messages were sent in code and intercept agencies worldwide targeted transmissions from the embassies within and sometimes external to their national boundaries.

Other transmissions on the Short Wave were the Broadcast Stations, each hosting programmes that used propaganda to give that country's political view of international events. But they also did something else.

The 'free' Countries, Great Britain, America and certain parts of Europe were hosts to other countries spies. As long as these spies operated from their Embassies with diplomatic cover there was little that could be done. Once in a while such operatives became *persona non grata* and were told to leave the host country; an event that became a regular activity between Britain, America and Soviet Russia.

Soviet Russia used the 'illegal' system where it embedded trained persons who alluded to be anything but Soviets. The Portland Spy Ring is perhaps the most successful ring and a splendid example of an investigation by our Secret Service, MI5.

The wanted material from the Underwater Defence Establishment at Portland was made available by Harry Houghton and Ethel Gee. This was given to Gordon Lonsdale who photographed the documents and then passed the developed 35mm negatives to Peter and Helen Kroger who later converted them to microdots.

Lonsdale, the leader of the spy group, received his instructions on a domestic receiver, the Bush Imperial or EBS44 designed for use with a short wire antenna. Apart from Long and Medium Wavebands it had six Short Wave bands that allowed full coverage of the short wave.

The transmissions received by Lonsdale were by modulated Morse or MCW, that is the carrier wave is amplitude modulated with a tone enabling the dots and dashes of the Morse character being received to be heard.



**EBS44 Receiver as used by Gordon Lonsdale**

Lonsdale's schedule was twice a week, thought to be Monday and Saturday. Each scheduled sending would be repeated three times, usually in 20-minute slots. Lonsdale kept his radio schedule and One Time Pads in the base of a table lighter.

6735	5094	6735
9307	7512	5074
9076	2404	4302
4454	7836	5208
2045	7596	5639
2239	6194	6200
5211	6844	9300
8375	3120	8494
3961	2847	5980
5674	8675	9455
7691	4506	7838

**Radio Schedule**



**One Time Pads [Black Message in, Red Message out]**

The Krogers received their messages, also MCW on the same schedule as Lonsdale, on a radiogram. Like Lonsdale's receiver it sported Long and Medium Wavebands as well as Short Wave coverage.





**Evidential image, 45 Cranley Drive, Ruislip [Kroger home]**

The Krogers connected their radiogram to a wire hidden in the loft that was 74 feet 9 inches or 22.52metres long producing an antenna that was useful in the 45 and 22 Metre wavebands and for their transmitter.

The messages transmitted from Moscow Central were a series of numbers sent in groups of five preceded by an Ident, Decode Key and Group Count. Once sent the message would end with the Decode Key and Group Count and followed by a series of zeros to close the transmission.

The decode key would show what page of the One Time Pad was to be used to decipher the message text whilst the group count indicated to the recipient how many groups he would receive.

There might also be a single group within the message indicating the start of the actual message within the text that was sent [Lonsdale's group was encrypted using his date of birth].

The message as sent would not be tapped out live but would be machine sent. This is true today also although the Morse would not be modulated with a tone but would be sent as keyed or interrupted carrier wave CW or ICW and a carrier insertion oscillator used at the discretion of the recipient.

Sample Voice Message:

### **G06 German Language Number Station Live Traffic Message**

#### ***Actual recent intercept from UK operator***

Date: 250719: Time: 1830z Freq. 6887kHz usb:

Call Sign: 842: Preamble:974 x 2: 42 x2:

YL voice reads message as shown below:

Signal/Audio Difficult. Some fading: Message recorded. 974 is message info. 42 is group count.

Message read through once , each 5 figure group spoken twice. Ends on 000 000:

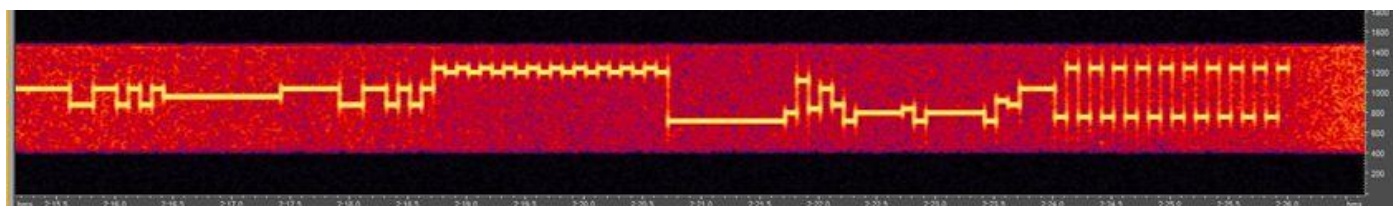
QTH Cardiff UK. Rx Grundig 750 with long wire aerial.

842 842 842 842 842 842 842 842 842  
974 974 42 42  
45671 65738 96932 23572 75375  
53652 92358 23653 29359 23659  
12345 53582 53692 65535 53658  
53489 83565 53682 53956 51956  
69385 53765 83756 96874 57165  
96874 43837 34542 58714 65896  
23876 26372 92684 76845 27272  
13945 76845 94231 37265 57693  
76892 23856  
000 000

Today Voice and Polytone are also used. The One Time Pad, a book of number groups has been pushed into obsolescence by the laptop computer.

This was seen when the FBI arrested the Cuban Spy Ana Belen Montes in September 2001. The number groups in Spanish language synthesised voice she received on the short wave from Cuba were entered manually to her laptop to eventually produce the wanted message *en clair*

Polytone transmissions are sent using tones scales 0 to 9 using tones that are stepped in 40Hz steps, the repeat tone being 80Hz higher than the tone for 9. The message is much the same as that sent by Morse or Voice; with ID, GC and DK along with a number of messages indicator and a Serial Number. Each message, irrespective of size, is built in 64 group blocks and that there will always be 3 more groups sent than the Group Count indicates.



**Message text section of polytone transmission [Null Message]**

The 64 blocks obviously indicate the way in which the bespoke Russian SVR supplied program 'SEPAL' operates; the three extra groups are the Serial Number, Decode Key and Group Count. They are purely administration groups and have nothing to do with the final message as displayed once the recipient fulfils the required keyboard strokes to convert the tones to an *en clair* message.

This style of messaging is called 'RADIOGRAMMA' by the Russian SVR and was used by the nine illegals led by Anna Chapman in US and arrested by the FBI in June 2010.

XPA-D  
 5762 0440 18<sup>10</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Very sky  
 6962 0500 18<sup>10</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Very sky  
 7962 0520 18<sup>10</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Very sky  
 10m26s  
 7991 00217 00777 93067-64746  
 Receipts Attached \*  
 M23  
 5345 1029 18<sup>10</sup>/<sub>11</sub> Very sky // 4951  
 246(L) 1043

**G7VAK log of last received message to Anschlags**

A pair of German illegals Heidrun and Andreas Anschlag were arrested on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011 in Marburg, as they received their 777 group RADIOGRAMMA message. They used the product from Dutch Diplomat Raymond Poeteray whose instruction was sent via shortwave in the early hours of Sunday and Saturday.

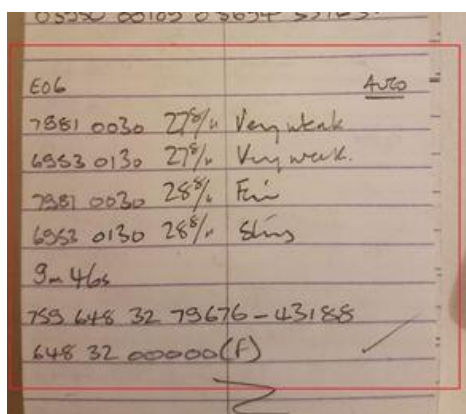
**E06 Early Morning Schedule**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
00:30z 01:30z	5783	5846	5879	6918	8099	8142	9061	7981	6874	6797	5837	5796
01:30z 02:30z	4489	4817	4923	5133	6949	7608	7844	6953	5179	5122	4583	4516

**Raymond Poeteray's radio schedule**

He was arrested in March 2012 at Amsterdam Schipol airport as he tried to flee Europe. His message transmissions closed permanently on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012.





759 648 32  
 79676 24725 80010 19476 91064  
 20837 55955 23688 02385 17633  
 35736 25730 48878 34556 57760  
 98564 05043 67407 42602 27951  
 89092 29399 42045 76394 06501  
 87626 65173 32362 89818 30884  
 61205 43188  
 648 32  
 00000

### **G7VAK log of Poeteray Voice Message Intercept and message text transcript**

The Broadcast stations also played a part messaging spies. Predetermined phrases or music was used to indicate to certain illegals which Dead Letter Drop to visit to obtain payment, supplies or spare radio parts.

One 'spy' who used this method is ex-Detective Sergeant John Symonds who told me personally of the messaging system used between him and his KGB controller when he worked as the 'Romeo Spy.' Originally investigated for corruption under Operation Countryman he fled UK shores when the net closed in; made himself known to the KGB and trained as a seducer. Listening to Radio Moscow at certain times and days the varying intro music indicated the dead letter box he needed to clear.

Returning to Britain he handed himself in to face the music only to be told by MI5 not to waste their time, stating they had never heard of such goings on. John was canny enough to ask for and gain immunity from prosecution for his 'non-existent' activities seducing diplomats secretaries and draining them of secrets as part of his pillow talk. Imagine the embarrassment to MI5 when a full account of his activities and his KGB codename appeared in the Mitrokhin Archive. Even more embarrassment was to be had when John Symonds discovered the editor of the Mitrokhin Archive had stated John's wife was an officer of the Bulgarian Secret Service, which she never was. For that John received a most apologetic letter of which I have a copy in my possession.

#### Additional Sources:

COMPLAINT as to Anna Chapman (1), Mikhail Semenko (2). In Violation of 18 U.S.C. 371 (Conspiracy to Act as An Unregistered Agent of Foreign Government).

## COMPLAINT as to Ana Belen Montes (1)

'Spy Radio Trial'	Short Wave Magazine	Page 211, June 1961 Vol XIX
'Spy, twenty years of Secret Service'	Gordon Lonsdale	Pub: Neville Spearman, London 1965
'Spycatcher'	Peter Wright	Pub: Viking, Victoria Australia 1987
'The Great Spy Ring,'	Norman Lucas	Pub: Arthur Barker, London 1966
'Their Trade is Treachery'	HMSO 1964	Pub: Beautiful Books, London 2010
Newsletter 105	ENIGMA 2000	March 2018

## Paul Beaumont

### WOT NO VHF NFD? by QUIN G3WRR

Most contest oriented members of SRCC will be aware that portable operation in RSGB contests is not permitted due to the lockdown requirements –inconvenient for us but absolutely necessary! As such the SRCC involvement in VHF NFD as part of North East Surrey Contest Group (NESCAG) will - subject to any unanticipated short term major easement of lockdown conditions – not take its traditional form. However regular VHF NFD participants are asked not, at this stage, to make alternative arrangements. The RSGB VHF Contest Committee is intending to put on a “surrogate VHF NFD” that weekend presumably involving fixed stations. Although e-mail discussions have been taking place, the details are not yet clear....a conference call is to be held very shortly to button these down and the usual suspects will be notified when they are available.

### VDSL INTERFERENCE by PETER G3ZPB

As many of you know, the RSGB has put out a "Call to Action" regarding interference from VDSL systems on the Amateur bands. All the details are on pages 18 to 20 of the May edition of RadCom. *[Editor's note – this topic was addressed briefly on pages 11 & 12 of the May Newsletter]*

I thought I had better do my bit to help and surprised myself by the fact I appear to be clear. There is plenty of noise from other sources but it appears not to be from VDSL.

Some time ago, I fitted an SDR module inside my Icom IC-9100 - it is a RSP1a receiver from SDRplay and fits inside the space designed for the 23cms module which I don't have fitted in my rig. There are instructions in the RadCom article about which frequencies to specifically investigate for this interference. Using the software provided for the RSP1 makes it very easy to setup a "Spectrum Display" to cover any 10MHz band up to 2GHz. When I did this, it showed lots of interference "spikes" but nothing I could positively identify as VDSL. However, don't let that stop any of you conducting some tests and complaining to OFCOM if you find something.

## 73, Peter G3ZPB

## IN PRAISE OF THE PLUTO by GARETH G4XAT

I'm sure I've written and spoken about the Analog Devices ADALM PLUTO before, a software-defined radio launched as an 'educational' tool. (ADALM= Analog Devices Active Learning Module, PLUTO, no idea!). Tech spec is here <https://wiki.analog.com/university/tools/pluto/devs/specs>) As sold it covers 325MHz-3.8GHz but as the community quickly found, it could be fooled into 70MHz-6GHz with a simple software tweak and whilst delving into its insides the second CPU core can be enabled too.

Its price point (initially \$100) for a full duplex capable SDR was very attractive and it remains amazing value given what can now be done with it. Best deal at the moment is Digikey UK about £137 (delivered from the US). Mouser UK also sell it for a £5 more but at the same time you can order a more stable TXCO, all 2x1mm of it. Or there's a free one in my carpet, somewhere.... Farnell sell it at greater cost.

I could go on at considerable length but this article is written to stir up some interest.

There are various hardware mods that make it truly excellent. Replacing the supplied TXCO with one of greater stability (about £4) results in something stable enough for SSB at 5.8GHz. If you want GPS lock can be applied as an alternative. Adding PTT control via a pair of transistors allows external control of antennas and amps etc. As it contains an Arm Cortex dual core CPU all sorts of things can run on it in native mode, aided by supporting use on a network via OTG USB-RJ45 adapters, about £5 on eBay.

You can transmit Digital ATV in many modes via external software (DVBExpress) and also from streamed data via a network interface (extra software needs loading but Pluto remains fully functional as an SDR as before). Conventional NB modes can be sent from SDRConsole (and SDRAngel but it's a LOT harder to use!) and more recently the superb Langstone project, using a Raspberry Pi4 and a touch screen. I got mine working yesterday, it's really plug and play. RPi4, touch screen, soundcard dongle, headset and a Pluto + power supply. [https://wiki.microwavers.org.uk/Langstone\\_Project#Software\\_and\\_code](https://wiki.microwavers.org.uk/Langstone_Project#Software_and_code) Early days for this software but SSB, CW and FM from 70MHz to 6GHz.....yes please!

If you have always wanted a spectrum analyser, with a tracking generator capability, or just a wide band signal generator you now can with the truly spectacular software SATSAGEN that has recently been released. (<http://www.albfer.com/satsagen-download-page/>) OK, perhaps not 'industry standard' (but can certainly be optimised) and not quite as much dynamic range as pro gear. Good enough to align a pipe cap filter for 3.4GHz though.....and see its passband.

I should point out that all the software is free (in true amateur spirit) and that it's well worth becoming a 'blue box operator'.

*[Editor's note – since writing the above, Gareth and Martin G4FKK have had a 70MHz QSO using this setup – Gareth's first 'both rx & tx' SDR QSO. "It's the future....." he says! The pictures below show the waterfall displays at both ends]*



WATERFALL DISPLAY AT THE G4FKK END



...AND AT THE G4XAT END

## WANT TO WORK A VERY RARE CALLSIGN? by PETER G3ZPB

As some of you know, Brooklands Museum has its own special callsign GB1BM and we normally operate the station for part of "International Museums Weekends" in June. Because of the COVID-19 situation we are not allowed inside the Museum and we are not allowed to use the GB1BM callsign at home! The OFCOM rules are different for PSES licences (Permanent Special Event Station) in that operation is only allowed from the station address (e.g. museum); /A is also specifically prohibited. So GB1BM will not be active next month.

However, the "main" callsign behind GB1BM is M0HNS which is officially allocated to the "Brooklands Museum Amateur Radio Group". Because it is a Club Call, we are also allowed to use the prefix MX and thus it becomes MX0HNS. Further, because it is a permanent Amateur Radio Licence, we are NOT constrained by only using it at Brooklands Museum. We can thus use it at our homes! So, two of us Museum Volunteers will be using the never-heard-on-the-air-before callsign **MX0HNS** during the weekends of 21/22 June and 27th/28th June. We will be operating with 400W on 40m/20m/10m SSB/CW/FT8 from either Coulsdon or Guildford and possibly also on 2m. For those who want a little "cheat" to find us, we are arranging to upload our working frequency and logs to the website HRDlog.net. Just enter our callsign into the "Callsign search" box on the right-side of the screen to find us.

73, Peter G3ZPB

## HERE AND THERE

Mike M1CCF has flagged to me a couple of items which should be of interest to SRCC members.

First – and this will mainly be relevant to SRCC members who are not also RSGB members – the RSGB is making an electronic copy of the May issue of Radcom free on line. Details are available at the following URL: <https://rsgb.org/main/blog/news/gb2rs/headlines/2020/05/01/radcom-may-edition-available-to-all-radio-amateurs-online/> . This is part of its efforts to support the amateur community during the current uncomfortable times. It also encourages non-members to join the RSGB (and why not?) but as our friends in Yorkshire say “you never get owt for nowt” ....

Second, did you know there was another Surrey Radio Club? I certainly didn't - but this one is not in “our” Surrey - it's in Surrey British Columbia! Their website is at the following URL: <https://ve7sar.blogspot.com/2020/04/the-may-jun-2020-communicator.html> Well worth a read.

And John G3MCX has also flagged something interesting. Some of us will remember Shabu Ramakrishnan M0KRI (formerly VU2CAC) who used to live in Croydon. We haven't seen him for a while, although he remains a member of SRCC. John read an article in the Chiltern DX Club (CDXC) magazine by Shabu describing a small DXpedition to Lakshadweep (formerly Laccadive Islands) which is a territory of India using the callsign VU7RI. As VU7 is currently number 55 (out of, I think, 340) on the DXCC most wanted list, I'm sure this stirred up a fair amount of excitement!

I intend to contact Dennis F5VHY (also G3MXJ, and formerly an SRCC member) to see if it would be possible to reproduce the article in the SRCC Newsletter.

Many thanks to Mike and John for these inputs.

**73, Quin G3WRR**

## SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – APRIL 2020

Apologies for the absence of a League Table report for March in last month's Newsletter. A detailed report on the March results is not included here as they are now seriously past history, but the scores have been included in the annual tabulation. However it's back to business as usual for April.

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4LZE	91	1		182
G3EUE	36		15	87
G3ZPB	33	9		84
G4FYF	21	2	2	48
G3WRR	8		8	24
M0LEP	5			10
G4FFY	3			6



The number of entrants for April 2020 was seven – one being a welcome return from Ray G4FFY. There were again no **HEARD** section entries for the month, but **CONTACTED** section results are as shown above.

The order of entrants is very similar to the last monthly tabulation – that of February. The five leading stations held the same positions with Rick M0LEP moving up to sixth place and Ray G4FFY'S welcome appearance in seventh place.

Colin's contacts were, as usual, all on FT4 or FT8 with the exception of his regular sked with Peter G3ZPB on JS8. Just over half were on 40m, followed by 20m (19%) 17m (7%), 80m (9%) 30m (5%) and a single 10m contact (his sked with Peter) for 1.5%. 26% of his contacts were outside Europe – a surprisingly high figure in view of the continuing poor conditions – which must say something about the penetrating power of the FT4/8 modes. He had thirteen contacts with Asia (mostly on 40m), six with Africa (mostly on 20m), four with North America (equally split between 40m & 20m), two with Oceania (both on 40m) and one (callsign ZW5STAYHOME !) with South America on 40m. He has also been busy on 6m having worked 16 squares – mostly by tropo but three look distinctly sporadic E-ish – so let's hope that bodes well a good sporadic E season this year....

Ted's contacts were as usual all on CW, and although the bands were not stated they look like 20m and possibly 40m. The great majority were with European stations (hence his comment "nothing very exciting") but there were a handful of Asian stations - best DX being JA (Japan) - and one North American.

Peter admits to having discovered 20m since raising his half size G5RV high enough for the bit that is meant be vertical to actually be vertical! This setup has yielded several new countries including a number outside Europe - 9K (Kuwait), HP (Panama), PJ2 (Curacao – which I am assured is the best place to go if you have an ailing pig) and PY (Brazil). All these were on 40m or 20m using FT8. He also had nine contacts with fellow SRCC members using FM or DStar on the 2m Club nets.

Steve describes his contacts as being "the usual crop of Europeans" on 80 / 40 / 20m contacts. However he has also stretched the technological envelope and been on to 6m for the RSGB Contest – but only worked one station!

Quin's contacts were again rather mundane after last month's junket of interesting Commonwealth stuff during BERU. All his contacts were UK or near European made in the RSGB 80m Championship or HQP series using CW or SSB....no FT8 here - yet...

Now safely back from Kenya, Rick's contacts were again all with SOTA stations – but with the choice of stations severely limited by the number countries that are still allowing portable operation!

And Ray has obviously been using his lockdown time profitably (although it is not clear whether Caroline sees it the same way) by trimming a neighbour's bush that has been encroaching on his antenna (see picture below).

Moving on to the cumulative total for the year, the results are shown below.

ENTRANT	1/ 20	2/ 20	3/ 20	4/ 20	5/ 20	6/ 20	7/ 20	8/ 20	9/ 20	10/ 20	11/ 20	12/ 20	TOTAL
G4LZE	101	125	124	182									532
G3EUE	98	104	114	87									403
G3ZPB	24	42	38	84									188
G4FYF	23	32	62	48									165
G3WRR		24	57	24									105
G3SRC	78	12											90
M0LEP	16	7	10	10									43
G4FFY				6									6
G4WGE	6												6

The positions have not changed greatly since the last posting, apart from club call G3SRC going down four places as a result of lack of activation, and Ray G4FFY joining the table – and tying in equal bottom place with Alun G4WGE !

There's little to be said about conditions, which the SFI still sitting very near to the bottom of the accepted range at about 70 – but at least the usual sources are now referring to "Cycle 25" so it really ought to be onwards and upwards from here!



**RAY G4FFY's  
ANTENNA FREED  
FROM  
ENVIRONMETAL  
PREDATION....**

**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 [g.g.collier@btinternet.com](mailto:g.g.collier@btinternet.com).

BAND/FREQUENCY/MODE	DAY OF WEEK	START TIME (clock)
160m / 1905 kHz / LSB	Sunday	9.30 am
10m / 28.078 MHz / JS8	Thursday	10.00 am
4m / 70.30 MHz / FM	Thursday	8.00 pm
6m / 51.55 MHz / FM	Tuesday	8.00 pm
2m / 144.6125 MHz / D-Star	Friday	7.30 pm
2m / 145.35 MHz / FM	Friday	8.00 pm

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....

Despite initial concern that lockdown would reduce the amount of material appearing in the Newsletter, the opposite appears to be the case. The current Newsletter is a couple of pages longer than the average – and even so at least one article (from Rick M0LEP on his new QTH in deepest Gloucestershire) has been stood over till next month. But that doesn't mean that more items are not welcome –please keep them coming!

**73, Quin G3WRR**