



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

85th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

AUGUST 2020 – No 936

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

General Club Business:	<a href="mailto:secretary@srcc.uk">secretary@srcc.uk</a>	<u>Acting Honorary Secretary &amp; Editor</u>
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Club Equipment Loan:	<a href="mailto:equipment@srcc.uk">equipment@srcc.uk</a>	Tel: 020 8653 6948
Club Website:	<a href="https://www.srcc.uk">https://www.srcc.uk</a>	

**As the UK progresses towards a more relaxed lockdown regime, SRCC is adjusting its future programme in anticipation of a return to a more traditional environment. Current plans are shown below but are of course subject to change in the light of the evolving situation – so please keep an eye on the Club website at <https://www.srcc.uk> !**

## SRCC Committee 2019/20

Chairman & Club Meetings	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737 551413
Vice Chairman & Contest Co-ordinator	G3WRR Quin Collier	020 8653 6948
Hon. Secretary Fund Raising & Newsletter Editor	G8IYS John Simkins	020 8657 0454
Treasurer & Membership Records	G4FFY Ray Howells	01732 357474
Resources & Liaison	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480
Committee Member and Events	G6JXA Kim Brown	07812 735507
Committee Member	G4LZE Colin Lugard	07533 174388
Publicity	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Webmaster (Co-opted)	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143

## EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends,

Following the successful operation of the "Editing by Committee" approach as described last month, we will be continuing with this for the time being, with Peter G3ZPB, Ray G4FFY and myself sharing the task.

It has been quite a busy month for me with VHF NFD and tidying up afterwards at the beginning of the month, followed towards its end by organisation for, and participation in, the RSGB Islands On The Air (IOTA) Contest. As the local lockdown arrangements have been progressively relaxed, Alun G4WGE, Mike G3VYI (both on whom many of you will know) and myself felt it was acceptable to go over to the Isle of Wight to participate again in this event.

Although the current RSGB rules mean that we were only be able to submit a check log, we made a total of 1682 contacts on CW & SSB during the 24-hour period – experiencing such delights as repairing a broken mast in pouring rain. Great fun – a write-up on the trip will be included in the next Newsletter.

So, on to the news....

## 73, Quin G3WRR

## FUTURE MEETINGS

If all goes according to plan, as of end July the SRCC Meeting schedule looks like this:

Date	Location	Topic
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	G3ZPB – Old Coulsdon	Annual Club Barbeque
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Virtual – Webex	“B” meeting – round-robin
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Trinity School	AGM
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Virtual – Webex	“B” meeting – round-robin
5 <sup>th</sup> October	Trinity School	Autumn Surplus Equipment Sale
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Cancelled	Inter Club Quiz
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Trinity School	“B” meeting – Fix-it and Skills evening

Obviously, all the meeting locations are subject to being available and the Government COVID-19 regulations being relaxed enough for us to hold the meetings. Further details will be published in future Newsletters and on the website [www.srcc.uk](http://www.srcc.uk) An e-mail will also be sent out to all members if there are any urgent changes.

Unfortunately, The Inter Club Quiz has had to be cancelled. As it is a team quiz, it would be very difficult to hold it as a fun event through a platform like Zoom, as it would be difficult for teams to confer on answers etc. But Sutton & Cheam RS (who were planning to host it this year) have decided to postpone the event for this year, and instead will plan for a bigger and better quiz for 2021.

## 3rd AUGUST – ANNUAL BBQ at G3ZPB's

The committee has decided, recognising the current government regulations, that it would be possible to hold this outdoor event subject to the following rules that have been drawn up. It will be held at the QTH of Peter G3ZPB and Wendy, who would appreciate being advised if you intend to come (phone number on front page) to ensure that the attendance does not exceed 30 people. The address is “Pound Cottage”, 202 Coulsdon Road, COULSDON CR5 2LF.

We do regret that this year we have to introduce some rules in order for everyone to stay safe and to abide by the government's COVID-19 regulations. As this event will be held on private property, it is subject to different rules compared with business premises.

- 1> As this is an outdoor event, it will have to be cancelled in the event of bad weather – see the club website for latest information.
- 2> Attendance will be limited to a total of 30 people i.e. 28 plus Peter and Wendy.
- 3> The event is open to SRCC members and their immediate family members only; visitors and other guests will not be able to attend.

### 4> You must bring:

- a. your own seats/chairs. There will only be some limited seating available on site.
- b. your own glass/cup. We have a supply of plates and cutlery, so you do not need to bring these.

- c. your own food. [If it requires cooking, this will be done by one designated person on the barbecue.] Salad and rolls will be provided.
  - d. your own drinks.
- 5> Some tables will be available. Please only sit at these when you are eating.
- 6> Please adhere to the “Social Distancing” regulations; preferably keep at least 2m away from people not in your immediate household.
- 7> Do not attend**
- a. if you are “Self Isolating”.
  - b. if you currently have the COVID-19 virus.
  - c. if you currently have COVID-19 virus-like symptoms.
- 8> Stay safe and enjoy yourselves.

We are sorry, but these rules are designed to keep everyone safe. If you have any doubts about your own or other people’s safety and good health, please do not attend. Hopefully, next year everything will be back to normal.

## **SRCC Committee**

### **7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This is the AGM which was scheduled to be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> but which had to be deferred due to the onset of lockdown. SRCC members will find the Calling Notice at the end of this Newsletter.

## **PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **THE G3ZPB “VIRTUAL SHACK TOUR” – 6th JULY 2020**

The shack tour began by highlighting the “centre piece” of the station – the Icom IC-9100. I chose this particular rig because it covers just about everything I need in one box:-

- Covers 160m to 70cms (except for 4m)
- Therefore, one connection for Microphone, Headset, Key and computer USB connection
- It has reasonably high performance in terms of sensitivity, selectivity, spurious emissions and output power
- Three antenna connections for HF, 2m & 70cms (I have 3 antennas)
- Includes most of the features one needs except Voice Keyer.

On the second shelf sits the Headphone Splitter box, MFJ Voice Keyer and CW key. The Headphone Splitter box was originally built for VHF NFD many years ago but has recently been updated to allow Stereo or Mono headphones to be used (and my fancy new Heil Pro7 headset) plus a small amplifier to enable a Loudspeaker to be used even when driving the box from the rig “Headphone” output.

The MFJ Voice keyer is to fill the one built-in feature missing from the IC-9100.

Everyone who knows me will wonder why I have a CW Key in the shack as I’ve not had a single CW QSO in my entire life! The reason is to aid tuning up the rig; by selecting CW mode and switching off the internal keyer, pushing the key paddle is a very convenient way of generating RF power.

The next shelf houses the Rotator Controller, Radio-controlled Clock, SWR Bridge and HF Antenna Tuner. The Rotator Controller is the fairly standard CDE unit popular in the 60s/70s/80s but has been modified to include a computer control card and RS232 interface.

The normal program I use to drive this is the “PSTRotator” software which can be used direct but also interfaces with other software described later.

The SWR Bridge/Power meter is a Welz SP600 unit with 3 x sensors and 3 x ranges. This arrangement suits the 3 x connections on the rig and 3 x antennas I use. The ranges cover 20W (useful for tuning up), 200W (useful for normal operation on 2m and 70cms) and 2kW (useful on HF).

The HF Antenna Tuner is an LDG AT-600 Pro2 fully automatic tuner with 4000 memories and a power rating of 600W. It is linked to the rig and thus band changes immediately pre-set the approximately correct tuning. Two rows of LEDS indicate the peak output power and instantaneous SWR.

The HF Linear Amplifier sits on the top shelf. This is an Acom 1010 and is rated at 700W SSB and 500W FM and FT8 and thus runs very comfortably at full UK legal power. It has a single 4CX800A tetrode valve running with nearly 3kV on its anode so is fairly rugged. It covers all the main amateur bands 1.8MHz to 30MHz and is very easy to tune with its special “Plate Load True Resistance Indicator”. It also has two rows of LEDs indicating peak forward output power and reflected power respectively.

All this RF equipment is connected to and/or controlled by a Dell Laptop Computer. The most important program being the Logging program. This is “Log4OM” – a very sophisticated piece of software that automatically logs the band, frequency and mode of the rig plus time of course. After the QSO is complete, it automatically uploads the details to a number of sites including the ARRL “Log of the World”, HamQTH and HRDlog.net thus sending off eQSLs.

The second most-used program is for VHF Contest Scoring. For this I use “MINOS” which contains a calendar for all RSGB and most other EU contests that allows for automatic scoring of each QSO; this can sometimes get complicated if there are possible “Bonus” points for new “Locator Squares” or Postcodes etc. In order to maintain an accurate station log, the details of each QSO are transferred to Log4OM after the QSO is complete.

The other frequently used programs are for the data modes FT8 and JS8. For these I use the WSJT-X and JS8Call software respectively. Here again, after each QSO is complete, the information is transferred to Log4OM.

In addition to these main programs, I also use something called “PSTRotator”. This clever piece of software drives the VHF/UHF Antenna Rotator. It has several modes of operation including simple “point and turn” but also the ability to enter a “Locator Square” or DXCC callsign prefix and it will automatically turn to the correct direction. But more than this, it can take “commands” from all the other programs mentioned above and thus with one click of the mouse will turn the beam in the direction of the station being heard or worked!

With all this software available and sometimes all running together, a second Computer Screen becomes not just desirable but essential; thus there is a 17ins high-resolution screen adjacent to the operating position.

With a second display screen available comes the option of running yet more equipment! I have an SDR receiver (model RSP1A) fitted inside the IC-9100 and running “SDRUno” for use as a completely independent second receiver for use as an RF Monitor or very sensitive “BandScope” covering any band or frequency up to 2GHz.



Finally, all this equipment is connected to three antennas. There is a half-size “G5RV” wire antenna for 80m to 6m and a two-band Yagi for 2m and 70cms. The Yagi is a commercial item from “Dual” and has 7 elements on 2m (giving 12dBi gain) and 12 elements on 70cms (giving 15dBi gain). Also, just below the Yagi is a masthead preamplifier for 70cms.

**73, Peter G3ZPB**

## THE G4FFY “VIRTUAL SHACK TOUR” – 6th JULY 2020

I initially was hoping to use my iPhone as the camera but as I was still talking into my desktop Webex application the screen selection by Webex was to my webcam and not my iPhone! So I resorted to using the webcam which was slightly limiting due to the USB connection cable.



I have a compact shack comprising of an all-mode Yaesu FT-847 Transceiver covering all HF bands, 6m, 2m and 70cm. (I found the packing box the in the loft the other day and it appears the mod for 4m has been done – yet to test that!!). I use a Diamond 25A power supply to power the rig.

As one can see from the picture, I have taken up digital modes like FT8 and run WSJT-X along with Grid Tracker. 6m has been good of late due to the Sporadic-E season but I only have a Diamond tri-band colinear mount on the gable end of the house (covers 6m, 2m & 70cm). At the top of the picture is a Kenwood SWR & Power Meter SW-200 and I am using three couplers to monitor 6m, 2m and 70cm.

For HF I have erected the G7FEK aerial as only having a small back garden, Still does get me out on all HF bands including 40m and 80m via the Dentron MT-3000A ATU. I have developed a crib card for the settings on each band.

**73, Ray G4FFY**

## **CHAIRMAN'S BLOG**

Hello everyone – I expect you are all well used by now to living in what counts as “normal”; well it’s about to change (or so we hope)! We heard recently that we should be able to return to holding proper face-to-face meetings in September. The committee is, therefore, planning an autumn programme of real meetings. The first of these will be the AGM postponed from April. The AGM gives us all an opportunity to look back over the last year (or year-and-a-half this time) as well as make plans for the future. It also includes the election of committee and officers including Chairman. This takes on more significance this year because I have decided not to seek re-election – I have been Chairman for three years now and feel the time is right to say “enough is enough” and also I want to spend extra time on some other activities in my life that have been put on hold for too long. I have written a separate piece about this – please consider carefully if you or someone you know would make a good Chairman for the club.

Radio activity continues here unabated – now I have my FT8 station working more efficiently than before, 50 countries are in the log with the addition of China, Canary Islands and Chile. I also entered the pseudo VHF NFD Contest on three bands at the beginning of July. The results are not out yet so I don’t know how I did or how well the club did except to say that we were one of the few clubs to enter four teams for the event; well done and thank you to everyone who took part.

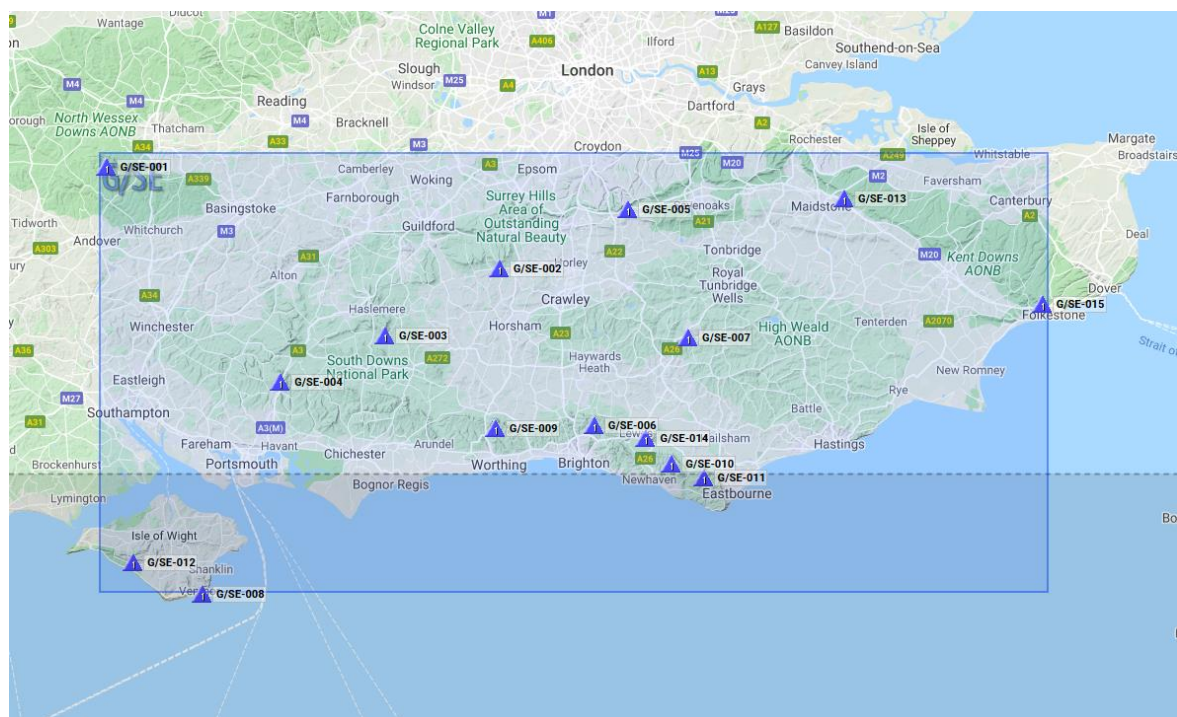
Because of “lockdown”, Brooklands Museum is still closed to the public although it is hoping to open in early August. Some of us volunteers have been into the museum during July to carry out preparation work in anticipation of opening – this is mainly confined to cleaning and tidying up the site. It is amazing how much dirt and growth accumulates over four months!

That’s all for this month – I hope to see lots of you at the Barbecue on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**73 and 88, Peter G3ZPB**

## **SUMMITS ON THE AIR - G/SE ACTIVITY WEEKEND PLANNED FOR 22nd/23rd August**

A number of clubs and individuals, led by Richard G8ITB from Cray Valley and Tim G4YBU from Sutton & Cheam, are planning an activity weekend to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020. Our objective is to activate as many as possible of the 15 summits in the Southern England (G/SE) SOTA region. See the map and summit list for more detail at [www.sotadata.org.uk](http://www.sotadata.org.uk). If you’re interested in activating a summit, take a look at the info for the summit – this will give you previous activators blogs, really useful information on accessing the summit, suggested car parking and routes to the summit, etc.



Summit Code	Summit Name	All Act.
G/SE-001	Walbury Hill	228
G/SE-002	Leith Hill ★	139
G/SE-003	Black Down ★	101
G/SE-004	Butser Hill ★	111
G/SE-005	Botley Hill ★	129
G/SE-006	Ditchling Beacon ★	123
G/SE-007	Crowborough ★	60
G/SE-008	St Boniface Down ★	87
G/SE-009	Chanctonbury Ring ★	101
G/SE-010	Firle Beacon ★	102
G/SE-011	Wilmington Hill ★	88
G/SE-012	Brighstone Down ★	73
G/SE-013	Detling Hill	162
G/SE-014	Cliffe Hill ★	62
G/SE-015	Cheriton Hill	126

This event is for everyone – those who haven’t “activated” a summit before, as well as experienced SOTA operators. Bands and modes are up to the individual SOTA activator – it would be great to have a good 2m presence with as many Summit to Summit (S2S) opportunities as possible.

Maybe you know some newly licenced amateurs who this would appeal to. You could introduce them to a fascinating aspect of amateur radio that will take them to new heights! So be it for half an hour, or the whole weekend, make this a date for your diary. Clubs in the South of England are especially welcome, and invited to take part. Support from those who wish to become “shack sloths” is really valuable to those who are out on the summits!

*It is hoped that the Government safety advice with regard to social distancing due to the Covid-19 outbreak will allow this event to take place. However, it is recommended that activators on summits take the appropriate hygiene precautions and obey any social distance guidelines that may be in force at the time.*

If you want more information please contact Richard Perzyna, G8ITB at [g8itb@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:g8itb@yahoo.co.uk) or



Tim Price, G4YBU at [tim@timprice.org.uk](mailto:tim@timprice.org.uk)

## Tim Price, G4YBU and Richard Perzyna, G8ITB

If any SRCC member would like to activate one (or more) of the local summits, would they please let the Editor know so we can coordinate our efforts. Also, anyone planning to activate a summit needs to abide by the rules relating to Summit Operation. These may be found on the main SOTA website at <https://www.sota.org.uk/Joining-In/General-Rules> but in particular mean no part of the station is allowed to be fixed to a motor vehicle, power must be run from batteries or solar power (no generator) and the station must be operated within the "Activation Zone". (Typically within an area bounded by the contour line 25 metres below peak height of the summit).

## VHF NFD 2020 – POST EVENT UPDATE

Clearly the exhortation in the July Newsletter to come on and take part in the ersatz VHF NFD event (based on fixed stations instead of the usual portables, as a result of lockdown regulations) struck a chord. It is gratifying to note that North East Surrey Contest Group (of which SRCC is a major component) entered fourteen stations, making us the only participating group able to enter "A", "B", "C", and "D" teams. The stations operating were G0KZT, G3SJX, G3SRC (operated by G3WRR), G3ZPB, G4ALE (operated by G3VYI), G4EFT, G4FFY, G4FYF, G4LZE, G4SDM, G7PWV, G7RAU, G8IYS and M0JSB. The results have yet to be published (although this should be very soon) but I can say that our overall position is pretty much the same as it would have been if we had been put portable. So very many thanks to all who took part, and let's hope things are back to normal for VHF NFD 2021!

## 73, Quin G3WRR

## SITUATION VACANT COLUMN

There will be a vacancy for Club Chairman at the forthcoming AGM.

I have been Chairman for the last three years (three and a half years actually!) and I feel the time is right to step down. I know the Club Rule change relating to maximum length of office was not passed at the last EGM but still feel that three years is long enough. In any case, I have other things going on in my life that I have put "on hold" for long enough and they now require more time and attention.

Please consider whether you or someone you know could take on the role. There are few specific requirements apart from loads of enthusiasm! There is also Rule 9 to be aware of "Only Club members who have been elected a Committee Member in a previous year and served that year shall be eligible for election as an Officer".

It would be great if we could have an election because several people want to do the job???

## Peter G3ZPB

## SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – JUNE 2020

The number of entries in the **CONTACTED** section of the League Table for June 2020 was again seven – once again from all the usual suspects! There were no entrants in the **HEARD** section. The monthly tabulation is shown below.

	WORKED	WORKED	WORKED	POINTS
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ENTRANT	DXCC / SQUARE	SRCC MEMBER	IN CONTEST	THIS MONTH
G4FFY	229		22	480
G4LZE	75	1	8	176
G3WRR	34		34	102
G3ZPB	28	8	6	78
G4FYF	24	1		50
M0LEP	15			30
G3EUE	8		2	18

It's all change time again this month, will all seven entrants occupying different positions to those they took in the listing for May. The change has largely been the result of Ray G4FFY continuing to develop his expertise in the HF bands and FT8. He moves up three places to take first place, displacing Colin G4LZE and Quin G3WRR by one place. Peter G3ZPB and Steve G4FYF move up two places to fourth and fifth, moving Rick M0LEP one place down to sixth. And Ted G3EUE moves down to last place.

Time this month does not permit the usual detail of each entrant's activity but in brief:

- Over 90% of Ray's contacts – mostly FT8 or FT4 - were with Europe, but he has been working some interesting stuff outside it. Best DX was with VK7 (Tasmania) on 20m, with 17m providing contacts with quite a few South American countries, plus Japan and Kenya. He also had a large number of contacts on 6m taking advantage of sporadic E to work 152 big squares, with best DX being Kazakhstan at 3567km – sounds like multi-hop sporadic E which is quite uncommon
- Colin's contacts were also mainly on FT8 and FT4 (including the RSGB FT4 contest). Like Ray he picked up quite a few South American stations
- Quin's contacts were all on 6m, in the monthly UK Activity Contest (UKAC) and annual 6m Trophy Contest. Some interesting squares were worked via sporadic E in the Trophy Contest – which is unusual (and welcome) as sporadic E normally declines to make an appearance during contests
- Peter's contacts were mostly made on 40m, 20m and 6m using FT8, including Sardinia for a new DXCC
- Steve's contacts included all the HF bands except 160m – although his efforts on 6m were less successful. He also had a contact with John G8IYS after an extended hiatus (which can be quite painful)....
- Rick's activity was a bit less busy than May's and consisted mainly of chasing SOTA stations on CW. He found 20m the best band
- Ted has spent less time than usual on the HF bands, focussing his attention on improving communication with an old wartime friend.

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	356	176							1064
G4FFY				6	124	480							610
G3EUE	98	104	114	87	129	18							550
G3WRR		24	57	24	141	102							348
G3ZPB	24	42	38	84	53	78							319
G4FYF	23	32	62	48	42	50							257
M0LEP	16	7	10	10	56	30							129
G3SRC	78	12											90
G4WGE	6												6

### 73, Quin G3WRR (SRCC Leaguemeister)

## HERE AND THERE – DXpedition to Agatti Island (VU7)

In the August 2020 issue of RadCom there is an interesting article of a DXpedition to Agatti Island in Lakshadweep (off the coast of Kerala, India – VU7). The driving force behind the venture was one of our SRCC members, namely Shabu Ramakrishnan M0KRI. It can be found on page 40.

### 73, Ray G4FFY

## 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.....

For this issue, the above title should really have the text “but not as much as there should have been” added! In order to ensure timely notification of the Barbecue and AGM, it has been necessary to omit several items that it had been intended to include. However these will be included in the next issue, so for now apologies to the input providers for the delay. That’s all for now, so enjoy your Newsletter and I wish you all the best – and keep COVID-19 free!

### 73, Quin G3WRR

### (AGM notification follows)

## FORMAL NOTICE OF THE 80<sup>TH</sup> SRCC AGM FROM ACTING HON. SEC. QUIN COLLIER G3WRR

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the SRCC will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at Trinity School, 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. start.

Following usual practice, this notice is issued more than a month ahead in order to comply with Club rules. It allows time if there are proposed alterations to the rules, or to allow members an opportunity to give advance notice of any points they wish to raise at the AGM. We also ask for nominations for Honorary Secretary and Committee Member, with such nominations (and acceptances) to be received by the Committee prior to the opening of the AGM.

Minutes of the last AGM and the full Agenda will follow separately. Nomination Slips for proposing Members for the new Committee and Secretary follow.

### Quin Collier G3WRR

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#### NOMINATION FOR HONORARY SECRETARY - 2020 / 2021

(Please return to Acting Hon. Sec., Quin Collier, G3WRR or before the start of the AGM).

I.....wish to nominate.....for  
the position of SRCC **Honorary Secretary** for 2020 - 2021.

I agree to stand and serve if elected.

Signed.....Date.....

.....

#### NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER - 2020 / 2021

(Please return to Acting Hon. Sec., Quin Collier, G3WRR or before the start of the AGM).

I.....wish to nominate.....for  
the position of **Committee Member** on the SRCC Committee for 2020 - 2021.

I agree to stand and serve if elected.

Signed.....Date.....