



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

85th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

OCTOBER 2020 – No 938

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

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Face-to-face meetings are currently suspended for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. The current plans are detailed in this Newsletter – but the national COVID-19 situation remains volatile, so please keep an eye on the SRCC website at <https://www.srcc.uk>

SRCC COMMITTEE 2020/21

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

EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends,

My statement in last month's Editor's Opener that we would be resuming to face to face meetings now reads very hollow in view of the fact that Trinity School was not able to make rooms available for outside users by the due date, and that the lockdown regime has once more been tightened. In view of this, the Committee have agreed that we will continue with virtual meetings via Webex until Trinity is reliably open again for outside users. While virtual meetings lack the

personal contact that comes with face to face meetings, they seem to have been doing a surprisingly good job in keeping our members in touch. This mirrors my experience at work with conference calls (audio only in those days 10+ years ago) – they kept things going well where you had an existing team, but were not so effective at establishing new teams - and cohesion of existing ones did tend to deteriorate over a longish period. So let's hope - for a whole host of reasons - that life will return to something like the former normal soon!

Some very sad news – I have received an e-mail from Ted G3EUE in which he told me that not only had an old wartime (and after) friend of his – G3FVO – just died aged 99, but a short time after that, one of his sons had died of a heart attack. It is hard to imagine the effect this dreadful news would have on Ted and his family – so I'm sure we all offer them our sincere condolences and hope that his life will re-establish itself with the passage of time.

I don't know if any of you saw Channel 4's "24 Hours in A&E" on 16th September. Personally, I find this series fascinating although slightly voyeuristic, but SRCC members will have a personal interest in this episode. We saw the staff at St. George's Hospital in Tooting performing the first stages of emergency treatment on our own John G8IYS leading to his ultimate recovery. If you didn't see the programme and think you would like to, it is available on the internet at <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/24-hours-in-ae/on-demand/69562-021> and will remain available until 8th November. It is necessary to register to view this, but it seems benign and hasn't resulted in me being conscripted into the French Foreign Legion or anything like that.

Finally, on a more upbeat but totally radio-unrelated note, one of our cats disappeared about six weeks ago. Despite putting flyers through about 60 letter boxes in the vicinity (as well as getting funny looks from people while wandering around calling "Pepsi"...) we had an e-mail from a kind neighbour steering me to a Facebook posting by a local vet saying that they had found a severely lost and un-microchipped cat. The attached picture was a dead ringer for Pepsi so despite her being microchipped round I went, and there she was! She is now back home, traumatised but OK. There were two oddities. Firstly despite the vet's website saying she was un-microchipped, Pepsi had been microchipped when she came to us (this was why I hadn't been trawling social media myself, on the principle that anyone finding her would have had her checked for one) – but on rescanning the vet couldn't find any sign of it. She said it was almost unheard of for microchips to fail – most odd (unless RF had burnt it out?!). And secondly she (Pepsi, not the vet) was found in Norwood Park which is over 2 miles from WRR Towers and she would have had to cross several busy roads to end up there - so all in all a very lucky little cat!.

Enough from me – on with the stuff you want to read...

73, Quin WRR

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next A meeting, on Monday 5th October, will be virtual, as stated above. It will consist of an RSGB video focusing on the QO-100 geostationary satellite and how to make contacts through it. Colin G4LZE (to whom we owe thanks for finding the video) says it is quite technical but should be very interesting. The B meeting on 19th October will be virtual and will again consist of a Round Robin – a format which seems to be popular with members.

Following the recognition that it may be some considerable time before the we are able to resume holding face to face meetings, the Committee is giving some thought to A meeting topics which would work well in a virtual environment – any suggestions welcome!

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The September A meeting on Monday 7th was the deferred AGM, which was held via Webex, and 19 members participated. The minutes will be published to members in due course, but in summary:

- Chairman's report, Treasurer / Membership report and Club callsign report were presented by retiring Chairman G3ZPB, G4FFY and G3WRR respectively
- no Chairman was elected in the absence of candidates. In the absence of a Chairman it was agreed that Chairman's duties would be carried out by Committee members on a rotation basis
- G3WRR was elected unopposed as Honorary Secretary
- the existing Committee (G3MCX, G3ZPB, G4DDY, G4FFY, G4FYF, G4LZE and G6JXA) was re-elected unopposed
- G7PWV was elected as Independent Examiner of SRCC Accounts
- Trophy presentations were deferred until these can be made on a face to face basis.

The virtual September B meeting on Monday 21st was again a Round Robin.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S BLOG

Welcome to a short Vice-Chairman's Blog.

As many of you know we held our AGM at the beginning of September and elected a new committee but no Chairman. I stood down as Chairman but was elected as Vice-Chairman. In order to dispel any misconceptions, I did not take on this new role so that I could continue to act as Chairman under another name! So there is no Chairman's Blog. Also, due to a number of reasons I am unable to write a Blog this month under any name detailing events at G3ZPB.

Of course, there is nothing to stop any member from writing a Blog (or whatever) and I know the Editor will be pleased to receive any contributions on a radio-related matter, so get writing....

73, Peter G3ZPB

IOTA CONTEST 2020

Readers with long memories may recall from an item in the September 2019 Newsletter that last year Alun G4WGE and I went over to the Isle of Wight as part of the Addiscombe ARC (G4ALE/P) entry in the RSGB IOTA Contest. We decided to do so again this year although things were a bit different this time. The number of people involved was lower - the team was Mike G3VYI (whom many of you will know from VHF NFD) and his wife Hilary who combined the contest with a few days offshore in their camper van, Alun and myself. We were also joined part time by Steven 2E0PUT who is a fellow Sarf Londoner (from Putney) but who spends a fair bit of time on the IoW. Steven, though fairly recently licensed, shows great potential and handled a 20m pile-up remarkably well for a relative newcomer to the hobby – and has even shown enthusiasm for learning CW!

COVID-19, as with so many aspects of current life, also had an impact. The RSGB Contest Committees have throughout been trying to keep a balance between acting prudently (e.g. by disallowing portable and multi-operator entries) and letting folks enjoy their hobby as far as the lockdown rules applying at the time permit. In most cases relaxation of contest rules has followed lockdown rules pretty promptly. But IOTA is different as there is a high proportion of non-UK entrants many of whom travel to obscure islands (for example, have you ever heard of Santa Maria di Barbana , Chongming or the Kalanchakskiye Islands?) to participate. Because firstly lockdown rules vary widely across the planet and secondly for some of these places travel has to be arranged well in advance (even involving special chartering of boats in a few instances), it was felt that short notice changes to rules would be unfair. So the RSGB decided early on that IOTA entries would only be accepted from single operator stations operating from their home locations. Nevertheless, after careful pondering, our little group concluded that we would be able to operate a multi-operator station from the IoW in accordance with local lockdown rules without being socially irresponsible. However, this meant we would only be able to submit a check log – but clearly we were not alone in our thinking as there were at nearly thirty other portables who did the same. In fact, the fact that we submitted a check log gave us a bit of flexibility as it allowed time for some experimentation without worrying about the effect on QSO count.

“Why the Isle of Wight?” you might ask. Several reasons – firstly it’s a lovely place to visit, radio or no radio; secondly, the site we use near Brighstone on the South West facing side of the island gets out very well (something to do with being right on top of the cliffs, we think); thirdly, Charlotte who manages the site is always extremely helpful and accommodating; and fourthly the IoW is a desirable place for other IOTA entrants to contact. To explain, the IOTA contest is based on the long established Islands On The Air (IOTA) award scheme, in which islands (however you define that, and blood has nearly been spilt over the definition) are assigned a 6 character identifier – for example mainland England is EU-005 and the IoW is EU-120. In the contest in addition to the usual “report plus serial number” format, island located stations send their island identifier. As the first contact with a new island identifier per band and mode counts as a multiplier, this makes contacts with island stations desirable.

Alun and I arrived shortly before noon on the Friday, joining Mike and Hilary who had arrived the previous day. Having opened up the chalet allotted to us (in fact the same one I used for BERU in March), after a cup of tea we proceeded to set up the antennas on a gusty and overcast afternoon. Fortunately some of the antennas were away from public access (on an area of cliff top so dangerously eroded that it was fenced off from the Great General Public: Charlotte allowed us access as she clearly felt our lives were worth less than those of the GBP) so no special protection measures were required. The mast right on top of the cliff was a fairly light duty aluminium push up mast (source Moonraker) of about 30ft, on which were mounted a fan dipole (separate dipoles with a common feed) for 80m, 40m & 20m configured as an inverted V, plus another fan dipole for 15m & 10m configured as a sloper). With hindsight, this mast may not have been a good choice. Given the fact that the site is very windy (a gust of 103 mph was measured during winter 2019/20), a light duty mast may not have been man enough for the job. Compound that with the fact that at each of the three guying levels, there were three guys spaced at 120 degrees rather than the traditional four which is a much more stable configuration, you have a recipe for trouble! The second mast, located a fair distance from the first to provide spacing between the two sets of antennas, was Mike’s “antenna in a suitcase” (which really does go in a suitcase – he has taken it like that to Bermuda (twice) and Australia). This is based on an expanding plastic composite pole with a wire strapped to its side, which when fully extended acts as a quarter wave vertical on 40m and a three-quarter wave vertical on 15m. A short crosspiece also supports quarter wave verticals for 20m & 10m. This was not guyed – instead it was firmly tied off to one of those bench tables of the type one sees outside pubs. Pictures are shown below.

Because of the relative positions of the antennas with respect to the chalet and the need to space the antennas as far apart as possible, we ended up using around 400ft of coax. More antenna work took place on Sunday morning when Alun put up another fan dipole for 20/15/10m using some odd bits and pieces – but that is getting ahead of ourselves. Come sunset Friday and feeling somewhat complacent we retired to the Three Bishops public house in Brighstone village for a (socially distanced) meal.

Setting up the gear on Saturday morning was quite straightforward. As a check log entry, we were unconstrained by the rules governing sections, so we did a bit of a mix and match: the setup consisted of two stations, largely using one as the “run station” with my Elecraft K3 and ACOM 1000 linear at 400W to the fan dipoles on the clifftop, and the other doing S&P nominally looking for multipliers using Alun’s K3S at 100W and the “antenna in a suitcase”. For those unfamiliar with the terminology, a “run station” tries to sit on a frequency calling CQ and – hopefully - keeps a pileup going, whereas a “S&P station” tunes around searching for multipliers and pouncing on them when found (hence S&P). Networked PCs (one per station plus one as hot standby) were used for logging using the N1MM+ logging program which amongst other things also drove a K1EL Winkey on each station to generate CW messages. A 3G dongle provided access to the DX Cluster, as well as acting as a hub for wireless interconnection of the PCs. The wireless networking worked flawlessly and gave us confidence in the ability to use the same arrangement in 2021. A few minor problems were experienced:

- the two masts were perhaps a bit too close together, making operation of the two stations on the same band slightly tricky (although possible with care) – lesson for next year...try to get the antennas further apart
- acoustic coupling between the two stations when one or both operators were on SSB was a problem – in addition to listening on his own receiver on headphones, he could also hear the other operator bawling into his microphone - lesson for next year....get the two operating positions further apart
- some problems with RF getting into one of the keyers – lesson for next year....apply more RF chokes and decoupling capacitors.

Come start time at 1200 UTC Saturday (all times in this item are UTC), we were actually ready to go. A detailed exposition of events, particularly whom we worked when, does not make stimulating reading for those who weren’t there – until something goes wrong (notice the cliff hanger there?), so this will be fairly brief. We kicked off with the run station on 20m CW and were quickly able to establish a good run frequency on which we worked 100 stations in the first 75 minutes before moving to 20m SSB where we works another 55 stations in the next 50 minutes. Almost all were Europeans with a handful of African, North American and Asian stations. Meanwhile the S&P station had worked around 55 stations – again almost all Europeans and almost all on CW – mostly on 15m with a slightly larger handful on 40m & 10m.

At around 1415 (we know that from the log because that was when everything temporarily stopped) a peer out of the window showed that that the top fifteen feet or so of the clifftop mast was leaning at about 60 degrees from vertical leaving the inverted V feed point around 20 feet up – despite that the fact that the run station was still going strong. So out we tramped into the wind and rain to have a look. The fourth section of the mast had kinked (presumably due to the gusty wind) and then fractured completely while we tried juggling with the guys to try and restore verticality. However, by one of those coincidences you would never believe if a man in the pub told you the story, Steven had another push up mast in the back of his Land Rover and we created a hybrid of his and mine that got the mast back to near vertical and the feed point only a couple of feet lower than before. After changing into non saturated clothing and drinking more tea, it was back on the air with the run station after losing just short of one and a half hours.

After that until the end at 1200 on the Sunday it was a kaleidoscope of operating, off duty chatting, dozing, catching up on sleep, eating (and many thanks are due to Hilary who kept us fed and watered most efficiently), all accompanied by that odd sense of unreality brought on by concentration, lack of sleep and adrenaline that is characteristic of major contests. If you've joined us for VHF NFD, you'll know what I mean!

The end finally arrived and it was then a case of taking the stations apart and repacking them, taking the antennas down (gravity assist makes that rather easier than putting them up but you still have to be careful), packing the vehicles, tidying up, then back to Blighty on the horrifically expensive ferry from Fishbourne to Pompey. Then up the A3, drop Alun off at Tolworth and finally home to a bath and bed. I left unpacking the car until Monday.

So how did we do? We made a total of 1682 contacts (73% CW, the rest SSB) during the 24-hour period, corresponding to 1.2 contacts per minute (remembering that for most of the time we were running two stations). But those contacts were not evenly distributed across time, varying between 18 per hour (0100-0200) and 168 per hour (2100-2200) and on six occasions the log shows that on the two stations we made five contacts within a single minute period. This is quite hard work and I must admit that it tired me out pretty quickly – and persuaded me that I really must learn touch typing!

Likewise, contacts were not evenly distributed across the five bands, either in terms of total numbers or the times at which the contacts were made. The latter followed the usual broad (if unreliable) rule of thumb to work the HF bands during the day and the LF bands at night.

BAND (m)	% OF TOTAL CONTACTS	MAIN ACTIVITY (UTC)
80	18	2100 – 0100
40	25	1600 – 0700
20	32	1200 – 2000, 0500 – 1000
15	14	1200 – 1400, 1900 – 2000, 0800 – 1200
10	11	0700 – 1100

Despite the relatively large number of contacts made, their geographical distribution reflects a fact that I have been banging on about for months in the League Table – that conditions were (and remain) pretty grim because the sun really is not playing the game. A total of just 64 countries was worked, and of these 51 (80%) were in Europe, five in Asia, four in Africa, three in North America, one in South America – and none at all in Oceania.

Assuming (fingers and any other crossable bits crossed) that the COVID-19 situation permits it, we intend to go back in 2021 – but we must try and learn from some of our mistakes. I sense a meeting or conference call coming up.....

Just to close things off following my earlier comment on obscure islands, in case you wanted to know, Santa Maria di Barbana, Chongming and the Kalanchakskiye Islands belong to Italy, China and the Ukraine respectively...but don't expect that to come up as a question on University Challenge!



**FOREGROUND – MIKE G3VYI ON SEARCH & POUNCE STATION
BACKGROUND – QUIN G3WRR (least unpalatable view) ON RUN STATION**



RUN STATION MAST – PREPARING ITSELF FOR COLLAPSE



WRECKAGE AFTER MAST COLLAPSE

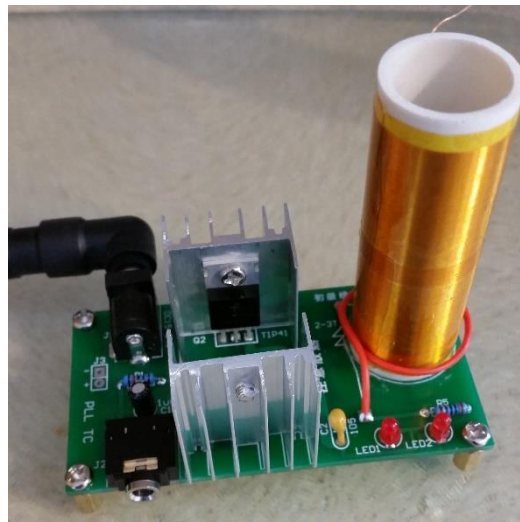
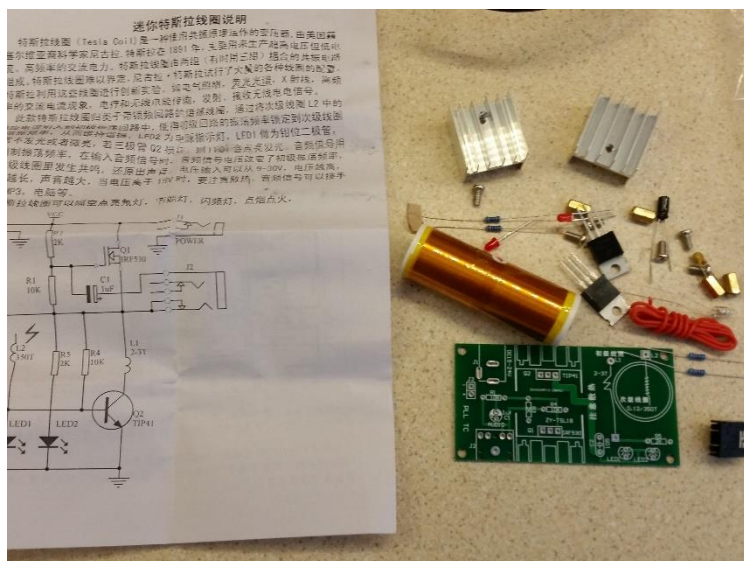


MIKE'S "ANTENNA IN A SUITCASE" UNFURLED – THIS ONE SURVIVED THE WEEKEND

73, Quin G3WRR

NOT STRICTLY RADIO – BUT FUN! by Steve G4FYF

During lockdown I treated myself to a Tesla Coil kit, £3.80 from Ebay. Bagged with parts and “manual” in Chinese, not a problem – circuit diagram and PCB overlay is all you need.



Put it together and plug in about 12 volts

..... a healthy purple corona discharge (*not* the virus variety!) from the end of the secondary coil winding. Output from a low frequency oscillator is transformed by the coil to generate several thousand volts at its end. This electrical field energises free electrons around the wire that form ions that collide with other elements such as oxygen, O_2 to generate O_3 , AKA Ozone that glows with the blue/violet discharge.



Now bring a miniature neon lamp close to the coil.....

...it lights goodly! The electric field excites the neon gas to produce photons that decay and glow orangey.



Now, how about a 300mm, 240V, 8W fluorescent tube? Wow! Glows bright up to about 20cm from the coil.

Same idea, similarly, field ionises mercury vapour in the tube resulting in photons emitting radiation at UV frequencies. The UV light is converted into visible light as it reacts with the phosphor coating on the inside of the tube.

I must say that of all the cheap rubbish I have put together, this is the only one that sparked (excuse the pun!) off immediate family and granddaughters' friends' interest!

The February 2008 SRCC club night saw Ian Daniels G4VDT demonstrate his, somewhat bigger, Tesla coil. This sent an impressive display of 'lightning' across the room and levitated an aluminium foil covered platform from the ground.

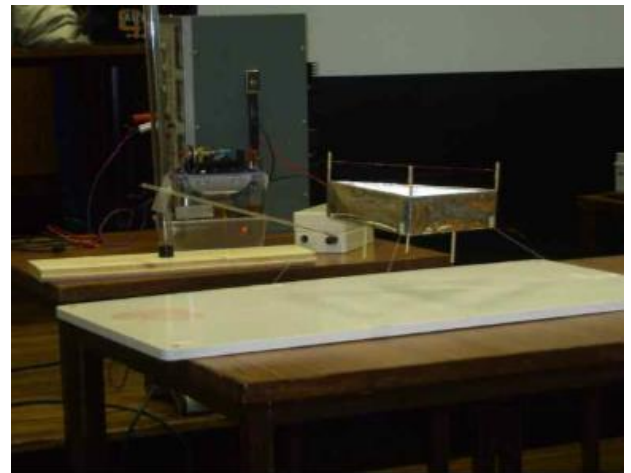


Tesla Coil



A continuous arc from the Tesla Coil

[Photos courtesy of Ray G4FFY]



The Lifter (amazing what several '000's of volts can do!)

Nikola Tesla, a Serbian/American inventor and electrical engineer, developed his transformer around 1891. His aim was to transmit electrical energy wirelessly. Early experiments produced high voltage, low current, high frequency alternating current. This theory then became the basis of the early spark transmitter. Later, Tesla began investigating what he referred to as radiant energy of "invisible" kinds after he had noticed damaged film in his laboratory in previous experiments (later identified as "Röntgen rays" or "X-Rays").



This seems to have kicked off development of future X-Ray imaging technology.

Interesting guy; search Google to find out more [hint: don't just search 'tesla', you'll just get sites relating to cars of the same name!]

73 Steve G4FYF

HERE AND THERE

Did you know that SRCC is not the only Surrey Radio Club? Panic not – this is not an attempted takeover! The Surrey in question is not “our” Surrey, but one in VE7 (British Columbia, Canada). The link below takes you to their website – it looks interesting!

<https://ve7sar.blogspot.com/2020/04/the-may-jun-2020-communicator.html>

Thanks to Mike M1CCF for this information.

I have received the following from Gareth G4XAT. If you think you can help, please contact him as requested:

"I'm asking on behalf of an ex-student of mine, now studying Electronic Engineering at Durham. From talking to a fellow student there (who I took through foundation License 4 years ago) he's 'got the radio bug' and wants something to get on the air with. Limited budget (like most students I guess) but if anyone has surplus VHF/UHF (or even HF) gear that might suit a beginner please send me an email with some details. (g4xat@ntlworld.com)

He says "my research project at university is in use of deep learning in wireless communications in the physical layer (using a neural network to optimize end to end communications rather a classical communication system). It could have interesting implications for SDR in the future (if it is any good and successful). So I think building my own SDR would be very worthwhile for me."

That's well beyond my 'pay grade' but as he says, it may contribute to the future. Ideas are behind every development.....

73 Gareth"

Another request received comes from Chris G4BUE. The QTH looks stunning but is way beyond my price range...the kit he's got is much more affordable and some of it is extremely interesting and well worth a look!

"G4BUE Amateur Radio Sale <<https://www.g4bue.co.uk/Amateur-Radio-Sale/>>

After 47 years of being a hoarder and building up a large store of amateur radio equipment, sadly I have reached the stage of life where we have to down-size to a smaller house with less land where I will not be able to make use of, or have the room to store, much of my equipment. I am therefore offering it for sale before, perhaps, donating it to a club, or even scrapping it.

Whilst I am happy to package and send smaller items through the mail, I do not have the time to despatch the larger items which will only be available to personal callers. I have a large amount of other amateur radio equipment, that is too numerous to list separately, and most of which will be offered free to personal caller purchasers.

I haven't priced each item because I don't have the time to research what each item is worth etc, but if you let me know anything you are interested in, then I will send you a postage / shipping cost, and I am sure we can come to an agreement on the price. Most of the equipment can be sold cheaply as I just wish to dispose of it.

Please email me at <chris@g4bue.com> if you would like more information about something or would like to visit and look at what I have. I am retired and am generally available most of the time.

I am adding new items all the time, so please look back from time to time. I will delete items as I sell them.

G4BUE QTH Sale <<https://www.g4bue.co.uk/House-for-Sale/>>

I am also selling our QTH and have put the details on my website above. I would love to split the estate agent's commission with a radio amateur purchaser (and save me having to dismantle the towers, antennas and station), or split the commission with someone who introduces a purchaser to me.

Please feel free to publicise the url of my amateur radio and QTH sales in your club magazine, club forum and anywhere else where it will be seen by persons likely to be interested in it – thanks."

Finally, the August Newsletter contained a pointer to an article in August Radcom by SRCC member Shabu Ramakrishnan M0KRI describing his DXpedition to Agatti Island (VU7). John G3MCX has drawn my attention to a note in the September 2020 CDXC (Chiltern DX Club) Digest stating that Shabu has been the 2020 G3RFX Award for his for his article 'VU7RI DXpedition' published in the March 2020 CDXC Digest. Congratulations to Shabu on this achievement!

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – AUGUST 2020

The number of entries in the **CONTACTED** section of the League Table for August 2020 was four – exactly half of the number for July. One of the usual suspects who was absent this time was Ted G3EUE because of his family bereavement: it is probable that the others were absent because this was the height of the holiday season. Let's hope for an increase as we move into autumn. Again there were no entrants in the **HEARD** section. The monthly tabulation is shown below.

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	151			302
G4LZE	83			166
G4FYF	20	2		42
M0LEP	9			18

Given the reduced number of entrants this month, a detailed position by position comparison is of little value. However the relative positions of the four entrants remain the same as they were in July.

Ray's scoring (i.e. points earning) contacts were all on FT8 or FT4. His HF contacts were mainly on 40m & 30m (30% each) followed by 20m (25%) 17m (9%) and 15m (%). One third of these were outside Europe, seven being from Asia, six from Africa, four from North America, four from South America and one from Oceania (VK3 in Victoria, Australia). These included several new countries, in the form of EA8 (Canary Islands...perhaps the signal was chirping?), CN (Morocco), J9 (St. Lucia), DS3 (South Korea), TK (Corsica) and ZP (Paraguay). On 6m despite the sporadic E season being generally regarded as over, he managed 84 big squares in 31 countries – including EA8 (Canaries) and EA9 (Ceuta and Melilla) for Africa.

Colin's scoring contacts were as usual all on FT8 with the exception of one using JS8. Most of his activity was on HF, with 68 scoring contacts (88% of the HF total) on 40m, eight on 20m and one on 17m. He found HF conditions rather better this month, with contacts in all continents: in fact 48% were outside Europe - twelve in Asia, nine in Africa, eight in North America, six in South America and two in Oceania. He spent rather less time on 6m, lamenting the fact that the sporadic E season is now over but nevertheless managed to work six scoring countries on the band. And all the above was achieved in the last week of the month!

Steve's scoring contacts were mostly made on 40m & 20m, with, as he puts it, "a dalliance" on 80m. They included 7X (Algeria), CN (Morocco) and PY (Brazil). Steve also mentioned that although on a number of occasions there was European activity on the 27MHz CB frequencies, our 28MHz allocation was devoid of signals – and Steve's CQ calls failed to stir up any action ...interesting!

Rick's activity has been limited by the absence of HF antennas due to storms – and things were not helped by building work at Hewett Towers. However, in addition to his usual SOTA chasing, he put in a few hours using FT8 on the last day of August – a nice piece of brinkmanship which helped things along.

The cumulative scores are shown in the table 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	128	166					1358
G4FFY				6	124	480	357	302					1265
G3EUE	98	104	114	87	129	18	76						625
G3ZPB	24	42	38	84	53	78	141						460
G4FYF	23	32	62	48	42	50	60	42					359
G3WRR		24	57	24	141	102	8						356
M0LEP	16	7	10	10	56	30	22	18					169
G3SRC	78	12					63						153
G4WGE	6												6

The August entries have made little difference to the cumulative listing. The positions of the four leading entrants have not changed, but Steve G4FYF has moved up one place to fifth, displacing Quin G3WRR to sixth and Rick M0LEP has moved up one place to seventh.

I hesitate to say this as I've been had over by the sun too many times recently but looking at what entrants have worked in August does suggest that Cycle 25 might be beginning to perk up at last. This is supported by the fact that the SFI (Solar Flux Index) is creeping up again (very slowly) – at the time of writing this, it was 74...pretty poor compared with figures in the 150s during 2015 but definitely a step in the right direction! .

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
10m / 28.078 MHz / JS8	Wednesday	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.....

That's all for this month. Keep well and COVID-19 free, and I hope to see you (if not in person) anon.

73, Quin G3WRR