SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

86th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

FEBRUARY 2021 – No 942

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

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EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends,

For approaching a year, I have been opening by commenting on the latest COVID position. But since COVID is now such a regular part of our lives – "the new norm" as the phrase goes - I am proposing, without in any way minimising the personal grief and social and economic disruption it brings, to cease commenting on it except insofar as it affects SRCC activity.

So, with the intense bit out of the way, let's move on to more cheerful matters! I have recently

brought a 6m/4m dual band Yagi. It is made by a firm called Dual in Bosnia although it is available through at least one UK supplier. There is inevitably a price premium associated with this, but if you consider transport costs, delivery timescales and the risk of loss or damage in transit I decided to buy mine from Nevada near Portsmouth (with whom, incidentally, Waters and Stanton appear to have merged). It is very solidly built and worth the (non-trivial) cost.

Before assembling it, I decided to check out my rotator which had been sitting at the bottom of its mast, the top of which was sitting on a trestle waiting for the 2m beam to be removed. This meant that the rotator was at a shallow angle to the ground, and the usual weather protection offered by the umbrella-like covering the bell housing offers when the mast is vertical wasn't there. I was a bit concerned about ingress of moisture, more so when I found that the rotator was catching during a test rotation, although it could be encouraged (by flicking the switches) to rotate properly. So it was duly taken inside to dry out. Before going outside (on one of the rare rain free days at the time) to assemble things, I tried it out – only to find that it would now only rotate through about 60^0. So clearly a proper service was called for, which I undertook with some trepidation having heard stories of disassemblers being showered in ball bearings. But forewarned is forearmed (like half an octopus…) and with great care I managed to take it apart only losing three of the 100 ball bearings (one of which I have found, but the other two being still AWOL). The problem was that the existing grease had hardened so it all had to be removed and cleaning undertaken. I looked for meths to use as a solvent but when I asked my son if he had any, he said "sorry, I've drunk it all". I had expected a comment of that sort – I blame the parents….. But he did let me have some spray degreaser (as used on his mountain bike) which made the job much easier. Before reassembly I found the motion of the pointer on the display was a bit jerky, so filled the sensing potentiometer with switch cleaner which did the biz, and having regreased the thing with white spray grease which was all that Halfords had (whatever happened to good old fashioned one pound tins of the stuff?) was able to put it all back together without too much grief. It is now sitting in the shack waiting to be refitted and the new beam assembled. But at present the garden is still like Passchendaele so it will have to wait for improved weather!

On a different topic, the impact of advancing technology on functionality, size and cost of equipment has been brought home to me by advances in antenna analysers. For many years I have had an MFJ259 (or more accurately three, due to a high rate of attrition resulting from unfortunate incidents in the field). A bit bulky, limited functionality (but user friendly and excellent for finding resonant frequency of antennas) and expensive (for memory around £300). Then a year or two ago, I acquired a MetroVNA (VNA = Vector network Analyser) which was much smaller, could do a lot more functions and had a built in LCD screen. This was cheaper (around £160, again from memory) – and very functional, although the user interface isn't great. And now, following an article in RadCom and comments from other SRCC members, there is the nanoVNA. There is a hint in the name….it is smaller than the MetroVNA and offers even more functionality (eg. it can support Smith charts – which I must admit to never having understood properly) and Time Domain Reflectometry – which (I think) means you can use it to measure impulse performance of (eg.) filters. Ironically in practice the reduced size is not necessarily a great advantage as the smallest screen (2.8") is a bit difficult to read and the larger (4" screen) more user friendly – although PC software is available to show the display on a decent sized screen (as well as offering a bit more functionality). And the price is lower again – I got a 4" model for just under £80 and they are available cheaper if you look around. One disadvantage (of both the Metro- and nano-VNAs) is the user interface. This, of course, is a common problem with much modern electronic equipment – not just amateur radio stuff – which offers a lot of functionality in a small housing. This is compounded in the case of the nanoVNA by the (on-line) documentation being written by someone who already knows how to use it – and having gone through a computer-based Japanese to English translation utility! However, it's worth the effort and once I have properly got my head around it, great things are expected of it.

But returning from the specific to the general, we can only speculate what technology will enable next….and what its consequences will be!

So, the moment you have all been waiting for – on to the interesting stuff…..

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The January A meeting (4th) was a presentation on the RSGB by Alun G4WGE (also known in this context as DR101 – the RSGB District Representative covering Croydon and surrounding parts of South London). Rather than summarise the presentation here, a list of the topics covered is shown below, and the detail is in the SRCC website on the "Meeting Download" page at https://www.srcc.uk/meetings/meetings-downloads/ . Topics covered included:

- Structure of the RSGB (functional and regional)
- Strategy
- Organisation and key officers
- Committees and volunteering options
- Member services & news sources
- Links to external bodies
- **Why you should join!**

The January B meeting was the usual Zoom based Round Robin and was, as usual, well attended.

An additional Zoom meeting was held on January 25th in which G1VDP and 2E0SBP gave a presentation on the RSGB "Beyond Exams" programme, explaining its purpose and how individuals and Club members could participate.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The February A meeting (1st) will be a Zoom based Video Evening consisting of an RSGB video presented by Mike Richards G4WNC on the topic of "The Raspberry Pi and Radio". Several members are already using the Raspberry Pi single board microcomputer, so this should be an informative and useful session.

The March A meeting (1st) will be a Surplus Equipment Sale provided Trinity School is again available. If it is not, as appears increasingly likely, a Construction Roundup Part 2 will be held via Zoom, following the success of the initial Construction Roundup in December and the quantity of items for display for which there had been no time in December.

The April A meeting (5th) will be the Annual General Meeting, returning to its traditional April timing after the COVID driven delay in 2020. It will be face to face or via Zoom depending again on the availability of Trinity School.

The May A meeting will be held on the 10th rather than the first as the 1st Monday is a Bank Holiday. It will, subject to confirmation, be a presentation by the UK Six Metre Group – well timed for the approach of the summer sporadic E season! Again, this will be face to face or via Zoom depending on the availability of Trinity School.

All B meetings (3rd Monday of the month) pending the return of availability of Trinity School will held via Zoom using the current Round Robin format.

GLADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Here is an interesting recount from one “KoK” who was part of the 'Gladio Organisation' For the uninitiated a Gladio is a double-edged sword, as used by gladiators. Gladio was a stay behind organisation should Europe become overrun by communists to run ‘Resistance ops’ controlled safely away from theatre. Every now and then a cached transmitter/receiver or small arms and ammunition are dug up. Not a lot has ever been written about this subject, especially the wireless aspect and training, and in conversations with KoK over a pint or few he promised me a concise piece about his part. I might add that KoK was a very skilled Morse operator. His skill with the Morse Number Stations using his Eddystone receiver was memorable. Although this piece was written for others to read, I cannot identify KoK any further than those three letters; although a licensed amateur he requested the anonymity. Please excuse any mistakes in the writing. The document to hand was in poor state and was reconstituted using OCR, the mistakes from the computer and my own checking skills.

Finally: This piece is *not for use* outside of the SRCC Newsletter. Any further use will be determined by myself.

Paul Beaumont G7VAK

GLADIO COMMUNICATIONS by “KoK”

My introduction to what I now know was called the Gladio organisation was in the early 1950's. With a short break, I had served since 1943, with the Radio Security Service and subsequently GCHQ in an operational capacity. My body clock never became used to the constant changes of shift times. For instance, two evenings, two mornings, two nights and two days off and my doctor suggested that I sought alternative employment. In retrospect, I should have requested a transfer to Cheltenham which I had at one time been offered but had settled at Lydd along with a new wife and home and did not fancy any upheaval.

Shortly after I had resigned, I was most surprised to receive a letter from my ex-CO at Forfar asking me to contact him as a matter of urgency.

On the telephone he informed me that a special reserve unit of ex-Special Communication Operators was being formed and if I were interested, he would pass my name along to a retired Colonel at Hanslope Park. This gentleman duly contacted me with the information that the unit was officially part of the Army Emergency Reserve which entailed attending four long weekend training camps and an annual two week course to be held at unspecified places in the UK or possibly abroad. At least we were to be well paid with expenses.

Trying to get all the volunteers together at a mutually convenient time proved extremely difficult and just as difficult was the formation of an effective operational unit out of [persons] of very different capabilities I recall some men could just manage 5 wpm in Morse!

We attended various training camps at Brecon, Hereford, Grendon Underwood and St David's Bay in Wales where some operators were sent out into the surrounding countryside in Land Rovers and attempted to make radio contact with 'base.' The results were to say the least, lamentable; it became obvious that a more permanent base was required.

Major Robertson asked me if I would be interested in travelling up to Forfar and investigating the possibility of reopening the old RSS station at Mountreathrnount Moor. I always understood that the site was demolished when the station was closed in 1947 but nothing had been changed and it was quite an odd sensation to back in the old place again.

I discovered that the Main Set-Room had been fitted out as a transmitter hall with some extremely powerful CW gear and fresh rhombic antennae installed. The plan was that during the two-week training camps parties of operators would be sent abroad and communication links established Volunteers were flown to Malta, Gibraltar and Germany and an attempt made to link up with Forfar using the standard *censored /2 words*/ CW procedure of *censored /4 words/* and laborious one-time pads transforming messages into five letter code.

Apart from the excellent transmitters the reception side was handled by some ancient Eddystone receivers which I believe were GCHQ rejects, but I cannot recall what equipment the overseas people were using. The whole operation dissolved into farce as we could hardly hear our colleagues abroad and when the transmitters were used the incoming signals were drowned by key-clicks. In addition, one over enthusiastic Royal Signals Second Lieutenant had a brilliant idea! The outstation would transmit its call sign five times and then stop. Immediately base would reply and contact thus established without any further procedure being required. The idiot didn't realise that the outstations couldn't hear each other and when the base replied they thought it was replying to them.

An analysis after the operation discovered that in addition to the key-click problems the aerials were cut to the wrong frequencies and incorrect impedance coaxial cable used. During WW2 the Forfar site was used solely for reception purposes and although SCU I used transmitters, they were located at Kirriernuir, roughly ten miles away.

"Robbie" scoured the countryside and located an old Italian Prisoner-of-War camp at Laurencekirk, which we then turned into the receiving site. I pressed strongly for the roles to be reversed as the Forfar site is excellent for reception, being all peat and heather and unhindered by any man-made interference, but realistically I agreed that Laurencekirk was not large enough for any powerful transmitters.

Business restrictions forced me to leave the unit in 1967 but I believe the organisation was wound down shortly afterwards when it became clear that the reason for its initial introduction, being the Government fear of the Communists taking over in France or Italy, had evaporated. Apart from maintaining contact with partisan groups on the continent the unit would have assisted with *censored /3 letters/* communication links which the Government would not have wished to put out over their own transmitters. In later years I have come to realise how difficult it is to instil any sense of urgency or devotion to duty in times of peace. For most of our men, I regret that the whole operation was a paid holiday.

To my great regret "Robbie" (GM6RI) died about two years ago and left very little in the way of personal Records. I know he shared my frustration at being unable to instil any real sense of purpose in his men or getting more support from the government of the day.

Angus County Council will confirm that the station is still there as a "Type of Radio Station."

This was a belated request from KoK which curried only one reply and sad to say, with the passing of time both are now SK: If you were a member of this group and would like to make contact with the author of this piece please contact ENIGMA 2000 leaving your name, a telephone number and times where you can be contacted.

If this piece has piqued any interest, then an exceptional book [the only one I believe] exists about NATO’s secret anti-communist armies that were set up by MI6 and CIA after WW2.

"NATO's Secret Armies, Operation Gladio and Terrorism in Western Europe," Danielle Ganser, pub Fran Cass.

Be warned, it's heavy going indeed.

HERE AND THERE

A few snippets this month – with thanks to Mike M1CCF, Kim G6JXA, Peter G3ZPB and Quin G3WRR for flagging them.

CHANGES TO THE SRCC WEBSITE

There have been some minor changes made to the website (www.srcc.uk) recently.
The most obvious one is to the main navigation menu. We have reduced the number of main headings to improve the usability on small screens (mobiles etc). The downside is that some pages now need two clicks to reach them whereas before they only needed one.
Also added is a new page listing some of the upcoming contests. This page together with "Nets", "Band Conditions" and "VHF NFD" is under a new heading "On-Air Events".
We realise that 10 different users will have at least 10 different ideas on the best way of arranging pages and the Menu, but we hope what we have chosen is a good compromise.

Q CODES

The following new Q codes have been approved for use :
QCV - I hate Coronavirus
QHG - I need a hug
QHS - I have hand sanitiser. Want to trade for two new cars?
QLD - I am locked down.
QPD - I am in the middle of a pandemic
QSD - I am observing social distancing
QSH - I am sheltering at home.
QSS - Stay Safe
QTP - I have toilet paper. Want to trade for a new car?
QTS - I have toilet paper AND hand sanitiser. Want to trade for an IC-7300 or FT-991A?
QUA - I am quarantined.
QWH - Wash your Hands
QWH? - Did you Wash your Hands?
(with thanks to Tim, G7JYQ)

"JOIN THE RSGB" SCHEME

The RSGB is running a membership scheme whereby anyone new joining them and using the special link will mean the SRCC will benefit by receiving a £10 donation. Full details are on our website at https://www.srcc.uk/joinrsgbscheme/.

OUR "OTHER LIVES" AND COINCIDENCE

We all know each other in the context of our hobby, but in reality, most of us have at least two other "lives" which may or may not overlap – these include our domestic / social life and (in the case of those of us who are not retired) our working lives. An interesting case of this arose recently arose from an e-mail exchange with Andrew Holland G4VFL (who used to sit in the seat

behind me at a BT HQ building in central London). Oddly enough, it was over a month before we each discovered that the other was an amateur! Another odd coincidence was that Andrew knew Mike G3VYI (whom many of you will know from VHF NFD), when Andrew took over Mike's VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) job in Kenya working on radio systems for the Kenyan Flying Doctor Service on Mike's return to Blighty at the end of a three-year tour. But I digress…Andrew and I have remained in occasional contact through my work on the RSGB Contest Support Committee, and he mentioned in passing that his son Clement (G6CBQ), who took over Andrew's call after the latter had upgraded to a class A licence, was now working (including driving narrow gauge trains) for a Heritage Railway in Cumbria. I have a photo of him in his railway clobber on board a train but can't put my hands on it right now. What struck me as interesting was the fact that Clement's work and hobby lives overlapped as a result of an interest in engineering – no great shakes I suppose, but it gave me pause for thought!

100 YEARS OF TRANSATLANTIC SW AMATEUR RADIO

Another interesting historical item from Mike M1CCF - 2021 marks exactly 100 years since the first crossing of the Atlantic by amateur radio on the short waves (in this case meaning "a wavelength of less than 200m"). The full story can be read at the following URL: http://www.gars.org/newsletters/2020_12_garzette.pdf. If, as I did, you have trouble getting into that URL directly, try http://www.gars.org/ , click on the "Newsletters" tab, then select 2020_12_GARZETTE.PDF and it should work. Interesting aspects (for me) were, in addition to the underlying technology aspects, (a) the fact that this was one way (USA – UK) only at this stage – two way working (ie. traditional QSOs) did not come along until sometime in 1922), (b) the reason why it was necessary to send amateurs from the USA to the UK to get it all to happen, and (c) the fact that a formal verification process was followed by use of a pre-arranged message – unlike Marconi's original 1901 transatlantic crossing (see my comments in last month's Newsletter). In fact the whole Newsletter at http://www.gars.org/ is well worth a read.

R.F.I.W.H.T.

For several months now, I have had serious doubts about the reliability of my fancy new Internet-connected Heating Thermostat – it's one of those new breeds of devices that enables me to switch the heating off when we go away and then switch it back on remotely when we are on our way home. The concept is wonderful but intermittently the settings just go berserk and there have been times when it goes "off" during the day and has been "on" during the night – not very satisfactory. Then yesterday, I discovered the reason – it is not immune to my 40m RF signals. In fact, I discovered I can switch the thermostat in and out of "manual" mode by keying my transmitter on 40m!!!

So, it looks like a case of "Radio Frequency Interference to the Wireless Heating Thermostat".
I wonder if anyone else has had similar problems?

Peter, G3ZPB

MINOS UPDATE

A new year has brought a new version on Minos – the widely used VHF/UHF Contest Scoring program. The latest version (v2.4.1) was released on the first of January.

The full list of changes runs to 40 items, but the main ones are as follows:

1> Rig Control has been significantly updated and now includes interfaces via HamLib v4 or OmniRig. HamLib v4 features many new Rigs including the IC-9700 plus new options such as RIT control and "S Meter" indication on many Rigs. The use of OmniRig allows “port sharing” i.e. the Comport linking your Rig can be connected to Minos in addition to a Logging program for example. You can also modify the individual parameter files for a specific Rig if you want specific commands to be sent to the Rig.

2> Rotator Control has also been significantly updated and now includes interfaces via HamLib v4 or PSTRotator. PSTRotator is a very versatile Rotator Controller program that has built-in interfaces to a wide range of Controllers and Rotators. Also, being a separate program, you can move the operating window anyway on your screen or to a second monitor if you have one.

3> There are also a large number of significant changes and updates to the main program to improve such things as the Band Map/Cluster operation, WSJT-X operation, UDP messages, ADIF export plus various bug fixes throughout.

As always, the software can be downloaded from https://sourceforge.net/projects/minos/files/ where you can also find the Documentation and Change Log files.

Peter, G3ZPB

NOT STRICTLY RADIO – BUT FUN! #2 – by STEVE G4FYF

Curious about a 5v USB soldering iron I saw on YouTube I purchased one during lockdown 1 for about £5 delivered. It has a small pointed tip, on/off button with blue LED indicator, and comes with a USB cable (that I doubt doesn’t contain too much copper), a tip cover and a dinky metal rest.

Upon switch-on it takes about 35 seconds to reach solder (60/40) melting temperature. It draws 0.9A at 5V, so not quite the stated 8 Watts. Initial test showed no problem soldering standard wired through hole components or small hook-up wire. But, given a modicum of PCB ground plane, it wouldn’t have it! The copper simply sucks the heat away due to the lack of thermal mass at the tip. A YouTube review demonstrated that, at rest, the tip reaches about 400-450^{O}C guessing to compensate for the lack of thermal mass. Given a bit of metal to deal with, temperature takes a rapid nosedive. Downside of this is that 1) it rapidly burns away the flux from the solder and, 2) can lift small solder pads from PCB.

Lockdown 2 and I received my £3 delivered 3D LED Christmas tree kit and used the iron to put that together. It worked a treat and, to be honest, it was quite a pleasure to use being light and comfortable. I’ve also used it to connect the wiring of under cupboard LED tape lighting in my re-furbed kitchen. So, it is what it is, and you get what you pay for. But reckon there are occasions when this iron will save you getting the big guns out!

Wish you a good and safe Christmas and look forward to a more ‘normal’ 2021. **73 Steve**

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – DECEMBER 2020

The number of entries in the League Table for December 2020 was nine – the same as in November. The monthly list for December is dominated by the battle for top position at the end of the year, with leadership contenders Colin G4LZE (last year's winner) and Ray G4FFY both putting in a major year-end push. Colin moves up three places to take the monthly lead and Ian M0CGF moves up one place to second. But for every station who moves up, another has to move down, and this time it was Ray moving down two places to third – but only four points behind Ian. Peter G3ZPB, in a late spurt, moves up three places to fourth, followed by Ted G3EUE who retains fifth place, sitting pivot like between the upper and lower halves of the table. The lower half is headed by Club call G3SRC, moving up three places to equal fifth following operation in the 2m AFS contest, with an identical score to Quin G3WRR who moves down five places as a result of a quiet month following his November bash in the CQWW CW contest. Bringing up the rear with modest but welcome entries are Rick M0LEP and Steve G4FYF who move down by two and one places respectively into eighth and ninth places.

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4LZE	116	2		236
M0CGF	96	3	11	209
G4FFY	84	2	33	205
G3ZPB	35	2	14	84
G3EUE	15		15	45
G3SRC	9	1	10	30
G3WRR	9	1	10	30
M0LEP	7	1		16
G4FYF	3	1		8

Colin's 118 scoring contacts (95 DXCCs on HF, 21 big squares on VHF plus 2 SRCC members) were all on data modes, 85% being FT8 and the balance FT4. The largest number of scoring HF contacts - 66 (69% of the total) - were made on 40m, followed by 20m (14%), 15m (8%), 17m and 80m (both 4%). Of these, 57% were European, followed by 22% Asian, 7% African, 6% North American, 6% South American and 2% from Oceania. Interesting ones (in your scribe's highly subjective opinion) were 9M4 (West Malaysia), PJ4 (Bonaire), S7 (Seychelles) and Z8 (South Sudan). Colin also managed to catch a good opening on 6m in which he used FT8 to pick up 21 big squares – many Finnish - in 8 DXCCs.

Ian's 99 scoring contacts (83 HF, 13 VHF and 3 SRCC members) were mainly (55%) made using SSB, the rest being FT8 (38%) and FT4 (4%). Most of his scoring HF contacts (59%) were, like Colin's, on 40m followed by 20m (29%), with the remaining 12% evenly balanced between 80m, 17m & 15m. His percentage or European contacts was substantially lower than Colin's or Ray's. 40% of his contacts were with North America, followed by Europe (33%), Asia (10%), Africa (10%), South America (5%) and Oceania (1%) – a single contact with YB (Indonesia). Interesting ones were half a dozen fairly uncommon Caribbean countries, plus BV (Taiwan), 9V (Singapore), 5Z (Kenya) and 6W (Senegal) for a new DXCC from his mobile! His 13 scoring VHF contacts were made on 6m & 4m using SSB & FT8, with England and Finland dominant.

39% of Ray's 84 scoring contacts were made during contests. 73 were on HF and eleven on

VHF. Of the HF contacts, 23% were on 15m, followed by 40m (19%), 160m (18%), 80m & 20m (7 each), 10m (4%) and 30m (3%). 66% were made using FT8 and the rest, apart from a handful on SSB, on FT4. Of these, 67% were European, 14% Asian, 8% North American, 7% South American and 4% African – with none this time from Oceania. Ray notes that these included five new DXCCs for him – 9G (Ghana), A9 (Bahrain), HS (Thailand) and ZF (Cayman Islands). Three quarters of his VHF tally of 11 scoring contacts, again mainly on FT8 with the balance on FT4 & SSB, were made on 2m and the rest on 6m & 70cm and included 5 DXCCs, including HA (Hungary) – probably by sporadic E, which often pops up around the turn of the year.

Peter's 35 scoring contacts consisted of 21 DXCCs, twelve big squares and two SRCC members. Most of the DXCCs were on 40m FT8 and within Europe except for two from North America (W – USA and PJ4 – Bonaire) and one each from South America (9Y – Trinidad and Tobago) and Asia (5B - Cyprus). All his VHF big squares were made in contests and were within the UK except for one DL (Germany).

Ted was largely tied up with domestic tasks during December but nevertheless took advantage of a contest to clock up scoring contacts, making 15 scoring contacts for 45 points. The band is not known, but the contacts are presumed to have all been on CW!

The Club call G3SRC was exercised in the RSGB 2m AFS contest by Quin G3WRR and gained ten scoring contacts (9 big squares and one SRCC member), all on SSB.

Coincidentally, Quin made exactly the same score as G3SRC with exactly the same distribution of "earners", so there isn't a typo in the table! His scoring points consisted of 5 DXCCs on CW in the ARRL 10m contest, 5 big squares - all within England – and all but one on SSB in the December RSGB 6m UKAC and one SRCC member also in the 6m UKAC.

Rick's eight scoring contacts come, as usual, from 7 DXCCs worked during SOTA chasing plus a contact with John G8MNY.

Steve's has again had little time for the hobby but following a bit of prodding (which fell just short of bullying), he submitted an entry 3 scoring contacts consisting of two European DXCCs, one big square and one SRCC member (again with G8MNY).

And so onto the "biggie" – the end of year League Table results and award of the ironwork. The annual results are shown below, and it can be seen that, by the narrowest of leads and after extremely careful scrutinization of the claimed scores, Ray G4FFY wins by just six points (0.4%) from last year's winner Colin G4LZE and accordingly takes the SRCC Club Cup. Ray's win is perhaps all the more impressive as he did not submit a League entry until the April session! So we look forward to the formal presentation of the SRCC Club Cup to Ray at some undetermined point in the future when we are allowed to meet again face to face…. A final point of interest, but of rather lesser importance, is the fact that the only change of the yearly listing between November and December is that Ian and Steve have changes places in positions 6 & 7.

ENTR-ANT	01/20	02/20	03/20	04/20	05/20	06/20	07/20	08/20	09/20	10/20	11/20	12/20	SUM
G4FFY				6	124	480	357	302	94	190	224	205	1978
G4LZE	101	125	124	182	356	176	128	166	118	132	128	236	1972
G3EUE	98	104	114	87	129	18	76			36	121	45	827
G3WRR		24	57	24	141	102	8		30	93	198	30	707
G3ZPB	24	42	38	84	53	78	141		28	21	24	87	617
M0CGF										168	171	209	548
G4FYF	23	32	62	48	42	50	60	42	35	42	8	8	452
M0LEP	16	7	10	10	56	30	22	18	36	14	28	16	263
G3SRC	78	12					63				3	30	186
G4WGE	6												6

So perhaps it's time to speculate on the way the League Table will play out in 2021 – fortunately this is one area which is hardly affected at all by COVID…. except insofar as it maybe gives us all a chance to spend more time on the air! It will be interesting to see how the 2021 leadership challenge goes with Colin and Ray (hopefully) both submitting regular entries. And of course there is recent joiner Ian who, from a standing start in October has been zooming up the table month on month and it will be interesting to see how his entry (which we hope will continue) shapes things in 2021. New participants will, of course, be most welcome to come on and keep the leaders on their toes….

The other factor of course is the imponderable behaviour of the ionosphere. Having made frequent and over-optimistic predictions during 2020, I think it's time to just sit back and see what happens! So thanks to all last year's entrants, and we look to them and future participants joining the fun in 2021

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 me know at 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	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 it for this month – but just a quick reminder that the 70cm AFS contest takes place on 7th February from 0900 – 1300 UTC: if you have the time, do come on and give fellow SRCC members (and others) a few points…. Details are on the RSGB Contest Committee website at https://www.rsgbcc.org/

Best wishes to you all and stay COVID free!

73, Quin G3WRR