



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

86th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

MAY 2021 – No 945

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

General Club Business: secretary@srcc.uk

Membership/Treasurer: membership@srcc.uk

Newsletter articles/distribution: newsletter@srcc.uk

Club Equipment Loan: equipment@srcc.uk

Club Website: <https://www.srcc.uk>

Honorary Secretary & Editor

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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 2021/22

Chairman	Vacant	
Acting Chairman for May	G4LZE Colin Lugard	07533 174388
Vice Chairman & BE Coordinator	G3ZPB Peter Burton	01737 551413
Hon. Secretary & Newsletter Editor	G3WRR Quin Collier	020 8653 6948
Treasurer & Membership Records	G4FFY Ray Howells	01732 357474
Resources & Liaison	G4DDY Maurice Fagg	020 8669 1480
Events	G6JXA Kim Brown	07812 735507
Fund Raising & Resources	G4LZE Colin Lugard	07533 174388
Publicity	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
Committee Member	G7VAK Paul Beaumont	07818 660493
Webmaster (Co-opted)	G4FYF Steve Jones	01424 584143

EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends, welcome to the May 2021 SRCC Newsletter.

Many of you will be aware of this by now, but it is my sad duty to report the death of our fellow Club member and good friend John Simkins G8IYS, who passed away at around 6.30 on the morning of April 13th at St. Christopher's Hospice (where another friend of mine – Dave Newton G3JJZ – also passed away some years ago). Although he had survived a ruptured abdominal aneurysm about two years ago, John's health had never fully returned to its previous robust state and had gradually declined since his return to the family home. It finally reached the point at which care at home was no longer viable, and on the evening before his death he was moved to St. Christopher's. I am certain we all pass our condolences to his son Gareth, daughter in law Anna and grandchildren Owain and Ellie. A card expressing sympathy has been sent on behalf of SRCC by the Committee, but it is good to note that other club members have contacted the family individually. The funeral will be taking place on Thursday 13th May at 3pm in the East Chapel at Croydon Crematorium. However, because of the COVID lockdown constraints on numbers attending funerals, an open invitation to the funeral for all our members has not been possible. However, a small number of SRCC representatives will be attending and Gareth has asked me to say a few words there about his life in amateur radio. So, if anyone has any anecdotes (preferably humorous, at Gareth's request) that they feel are worth of inclusion please let me know. For those who could not be invited, however, the funeral will be broadcast on the internet – an interesting instance of the way the COVID pandemic is changing our lives - and the details are given at



<https://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/funeral-notices/13-04-2021-john-lewis-simkins/> . Gareth adds that a more upbeat celebration of John's life will be held in due course once a degree of normality has returned to our lives. The picture (courtesy of G4WGE) shows John on the right holding a council of war with G4CZB and G3WRR at HF(CW) Field Day on Dartmoor in 2013 where he had been O/C catering.

On a contrasting – and certainly more cheerful - theme, my daughter Elanor and her husband Stuart have had a first child – a girl who clocked in (about 10 days late) on 26th April at 8.07 in the morning weighing a healthy 9lb 8 oz. Baby and parents all doing well. I will spare you the customary piccies of the baby! I tried to explain to Elanor the significance of the 8:07 but she didn't get it...she was probably still a bit dischuffed, as she had greeted my pre-birth comment - that pregnant ladies are well not for not adhering strictly to program timescales - with a stony silence....She has been named her Summer Mae – but in view of Elanor's earlier response to (attempted) humour I declined from saying "Summer Mae be a little late this year"

But on with the Newsletter...

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The April A meeting (on 12th April) was the Annual General Meeting. This was of necessity held via Zoom, and was attended by 20 members, with five apologies for absence. The formal notes will be circulated in due course, but the existing full committee members were re-elected with no need for an election subject to (a) John G8IYS not being able to stand due to his health (this was in fact the evening before his death) and (b) a new member Paul Beaumont G7VAK joining the Committee.

The 2021/22 Committee thus consists of:

John Kennedy	G3MCX
Quin Collier	G3WRR
Peter Burton	G3ZPB
Maurice Fagg	G4DDY
Ray Howells	G4FFY
Colin Lugard	G4LZE
Kim Brown	G6JXA
Paul Beaumont	G7VAK.

Main Officer positions for 2021/22 are:

Chair	No applicant – post remains unfilled.
Vice Chair	Peter Burton G3ZPB
Hon. Secretary	Quin Collier G3WRR
Treasurer / Membership Secretary	Ray Howells G4FFY

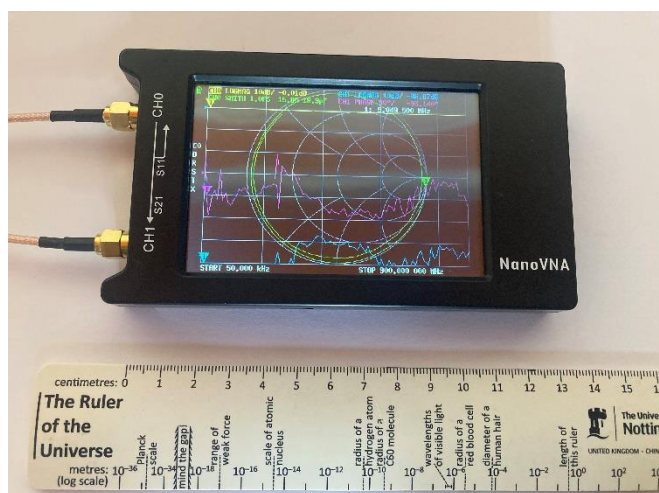
Concern was expressed about the continuing absence of a Chairman, and it was agreed that this definitely need to be addressed – but this would be better handled face to face rather than by Zoom, and this could not be done until lockdown has ended.

The B meeting on 26th was the now usual Zoom based Round Robin and was attended by 19 members.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The May A meeting (on 10th May due to the Bank Holiday on the 3rd) will be via Zoom, and will consist of a video “The Magic of 6m” presented by Chris G4FIX from the UK Six Meter Group (UKSMG). This was previously shown at the 2020 RSGB (Virtual) Convention, and Chris has kindly agreed to attend the Zoom call to answer members’ questions. Coming as it does near the start of the 2021 sporadic E season, this should be a timely and very interesting session.

The June A meeting (7th June) will be a presentation via Zoom on the nanoVNA network analyser (see picture at right), examples of which are owned by several of SRCC members. This will be given by Quin G3WRR and should provide a view of how antenna (and other network) tools have moved forward since the days of the simple SWR bridge. Quin notes that as this is the day after HF CW Field Day weekend, there is a risk of him falling asleep during the proceedings....



The July A meeting (5th July) will, provided relaxation of COVID lockdown plays out as currently planned, mark a return to face to face meetings at Trinity School, and both SRCC and the school are working on that assumption. The intention is that this will be a Construction Contest – with real money (in relatively small quantities) as prizes! – so now would be a good time to get busy now with the soldering iron, chain saw, etc... If the epidemiology plays dirty tricks on us, a rethink will be required, but a video presentation via Zoom seems likely.

The August A meeting – which will be held on Sunday 1st August rather than the traditional first Monday – will, COVID again permitting, be held at ZPB Towers in Coulsdon, and in a variation from the usual Barbecue, will, at the suggestion of Terry G4CDY from his new QTH on the Lizard, be a Cornish Pasty session. The Treasurer has been asked to investigate whether there are financial interests involved here....

The May and June B meetings (17th and 21st respectively) will be Round Robins via Zoom, but it is hoped that the July B meeting (19th) will be face-to-face at Trinity – but please keep an eye on the website to keep up with the current situation!

FRIENDSHIP ON THE AIR AWARD

Here is an award that all members of the club who hold a valid Amateur Radio License can obtain without having to enter a contest or use a specific band or specific time - the RSGB "Friendship on the Air" award.

Details are available in the May edition of RadCom, and a full explanation is available at www.rsgb.org/friendship-award. Basically, a QSO must take place using CW or Phone on any of the amateur bands and at any time. To be a valid QSO you must exchange your call sign, signal report and club identifier (which for us is SURR). The SRCC must be contained in either the "Notes" or "Comments" field in your log. To submit your log, go to <https://awards.rsgbcc.org> and submit the log file in ADIF format. You must do this within seven days of the end of the calendar month.

Monthly awards will be issued as follows:

- All entrants with > 25 points in the calendar month,
- The club with the highest number of points,
- The highest-scoring club in each RSGB Region.

We look forward to lots of entries from SRCC members.

73, Peter G3ZPB

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE....

Assistance required by G4FDN in tests using very narrow band (1khz) low bit rate (700 b/s) digital voice on VHF/UHF (4m, 2m, 70cm) and Top Band using FreeDV to determine effects of multipath and doppler shift on the various FreeDV sub-modes. I am also interested in doing comparisons with wider DV modes like DSTAR on HF/VHF/UHF with suitably equipped stations. Any amateur who has successfully used PSK31, FT8, etc should find the setup fairly straightforward. The only additional piece of hardware required is a USB microphone headset, though analogue mic/headsets can be used if you have more than one soundcard interface.

Details of FreeDV and software downloads are available here: <https://freedv.org/> I'm happy to provide assistance over the air or email or phone on the setup. I would recommend using Windows versions of FreeDV though Linux and Raspberry pi can also be used, but familiarity with compiling source code is required.

I first tried digital voice via FreeDV about 7 years ago, when it was in its infancy, but have been active for the last few months on a daily FreeDV net on 3.693MHz using 25W, though most of the other participants are Welsh stations who are good copy both ways, but unfortunately, I haven't found any local operators hence my request here.

The RSGB news is also transmitted on FreeDV on Sundays at 9am on 3.643MHz. There is also a RSGB lecture video available on FreeDV via their website or YouTube [RSGB 2018 Convention lecture: FreeDV - Digital Voice for HF and other low SNR channels - YouTube](#). G4FDN contact details as per SRCC membership list and I can often be found via GB3XP and on the club's 4m FM net and 2m DSTAR net.

73, Pat G4FDN

HERE AND THERE

A new net is included on the list in the SRCC Nets section (see below), following the suggestion by Terry G4CDY that a net permitting reliable communication between the Croydon area and the Deep South (ie. Giles Towers) would be a nice idea. Following a couple of trial sessions, 80m at 9am clock time was found to work quite well (subject of course to the vagaries of the ionosphere) and so Monday mornings at 9am clock time on 3710kHz (+/- QRM) has been chosen. Hopefully, this choice will also permit others on the South coast such as Ted G3EUE and Steve G4FYF to take part.

Following the recent RSGB AGM (you guessed it - via Zoom), Dr Stuart Bryant G3YSX has been elected President of the RSGB. Stuart is a fairly close neighbour to us, living near Redhill.

Those of you who may recall my article in the October 2020 SRCC Newsletter describing a trip to the Isle of Wight for the IOTA contest last year attended by Alun G4WGE and myself, may be interested to know that it has hit the big time (sort of), having been published in slightly modified form (e.g., to remove in jokes that would only be appreciated - or perhaps not - by SRCC members) in the recent issue of RadCom. Following the RadCom article by Paul G7VAK a month or two ago on his antenna system a month or two ago, it's good to see that SRCC members are getting a bit of exposure.

With the anticipated easing of lockdown approaching, it is good to see that the organisers of some of the traditional regular events are actively preparing to hold them again in 2021. Mike M1CCF has drawn my attention to the fact that tentative plans are being made for the 45th HAM RADIO event at Friedrichshafen in Germany over the weekend of 25th – 27th June. More information is available at <https://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.com/ham-radio-sends-a-clear-signal>. And for those who are uncertain about the availability of forthcoming overseas travel or would prefer something a bit closer to home, the National Hamfest 2021 is being planned for the 24th – 25th September at the Newark and Nottinghamshire Showground.

Thanks also to Mike for sending me a link to the Southgate ARC website - http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2021/march/ofcom-new-draft-uk-amateur-radio-licence.htm?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter#.YFWgoyXfUIQ. This mentions two Ofcom related topics – firstly regarding a new draft amateur licence to be introduced in May: the related link to that Ofcom website doesn't seem to be working for me, but the subject has to be worth closer attention, and secondly on the subject of the new EMF (Electromagnetic Field) regulations which will affect us all to a greater or lesser extent, and on which last month's Newsletter contained an item by Peter G3ZPB.

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE –MARCH 2021

There were eight entries for the March 2021 League Table. This was one down on February – the difference being no entry from G3SRC this time, although all the other usual suspects provided inputs. The only difference in positions was from Ted G3EUE who moved up two places, displacing Peter G3ZPB and Quin G3WRR down by one. The month's listing is shown below:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0CGF	120	3	67	313
G4FFY	104	8	8	252
G4LZE	91	5	27	239
G3EUE	38		4	80
G3ZPB	32	3	7	77
G3WRR	17	7	16	62
G4FYF	17	1		36
M0LEP	6			12

Ian's scoring contacts were split evenly between voice and the digital modes. 50% used SSB, 42% FT8 and the balance was a mix of PSK, RTTY and Q65. Over half his contacts were on 40m & 20m, with just under 30% each, followed by 15% on 80m, 14% on 6m and the remainder on 17m, 15m & 4m. As for geographic distribution, all continents were contacted, Europe as usual being dominant with 59% followed by Asia (12%), North America (10%), South America (8%), Africa (7%) Oceania (2%) and Antarctica (nice work!) for 1%. He managed to pick up some quite rare ones, including C6 (Bahamas, and a new DXCC for him), CP (Bolivia), TR8 (Gabon), VP8 (Falklands), VR2 (Hong Kong) and DP1POL (Antarctica). Despite having a German call, this is a station at the German "Neumayer III" research station about 1000 miles North of the South Pole. That clearly involves **real** lockdown and I guess amateur radio is as good a way as any of passing one's non-working hours!

Ray's scoring HF contacts included all continents except Antarctica. The majority (60%) were with Europe, followed by Asia (14%), North America (9%), Africa (8%), South America (6%) and Oceania (1%). They covered all the HF bands except 12m, with the greatest number (24%) on 20m, followed by 40m (22%), 17m (15%), 15m (12%) and the balance (less than 10% each) on 160m, 30m, 10m and 80m. 72% used FT8, with the remaining 27% on FT4 apart from a single contact on JS8 (with Colin). He also made contacts with 16 big squares in eight DXCCs on VHF (three on 6m, the rest on 2m). Two used SSB and the rest FT8. He notes that on HF he managed three new DXCCs – PJ4 (Bonaire), S7 (Seychelles) and HB0 (Liechtenstein) – but alas had a rather larger number of gotaways!

Just over half of Colin's scoring HF contacts (51%) were made on 40m, followed by 20m (38%), with the remaining 11% distributed between 80m, 30m, 17m & 10m in descending order. All but

three (on SSB with other SRCC members) used digital modes, with FT8 dominant at 49%, followed by RTTY (28%, in the BARTG RTTY contest), FT4 (17%), PSK31 (2%) and JS8 (1%, a single contact with Ray). He managed scoring contacts with all continents except Antarctica. Europe was dominant as usual with 55%, followed by Asia (24%), Africa (10%), North America (5%) South America (2%) and Oceania (2%). Colin also managed 7 big squares on 6m using FT8, three of which were clearly via sporadic E – quite early in the season for that mode.

Ted's contacts were all HF CW between 40m & 10m but excluded 15m & 12m. Despite finding the bands generally quiet he did manage to pick up 5B (Cyprus) and 9J (Zambia) on 10m – both in the Commonwealth Contest (aka. BERU) which bears out the theory that contests promote activity!

Peter has been clearly taking advantage of contests again to pick up points, having used SSB in the RSGB 144/432MHz and the CQ WW WPX events. He also used FT8 & PSK on 20m to pick up new DXCC entities in the form of 9H (Malta), TF (Iceland), 4X (Israel) ZC4 (Cyprus British bases, which count as a different DXCC from 5B), CN8 (Morocco) and FR (Reunion) – nice one! – for a total of four continents, Europe, Asia, North America and Africa.

Like Peter, Quin took advantage of contests to gain points, having taken part in BERU on HF, and two UKACs at VHF: on 4m to try out his new dual band 6m / 4m beam – and also on 2m FM where he made two contacts using a handheld...one from the front doorstep and one from the rear to optimise signal strengths. BERU remains a personal favourite....sadly in these post Empire days it is a shadow of its former self, in which Colonial staff in a large number of countries used to come on to work the Mother Country and each other. But nevertheless, it is great fun and earned him eight DXCCs. Outside of contests, he managed a personal all-time record for SRCC members, having worked seven while testing out the Croydon / Cornwall path as mentioned earlier.

Steve's contacts, which he claims to be the result of "minimal activity", were all on 40m & 20m except for G8MNY (presumably on 80m) and were all within Europe with the exception of 9K (Kuwait).

Rick self-deprecatingly describes his entry this month as "wooden spoon territory again" but although SOTA activity within Europe has increased somewhat, pickings are still thin - and the scope for contacts with SOTA stations in other continents is limited because of the essentially QRP nature of the activity. But at least he has enough work to do on the new home to keep him out of trouble...

The 2021 cumulative table is shown below. Changes here closely mirror those in the monthly listing for March: Ted G3EUE has again moved up two places, displacing the two stations below him – in this case Quin G3WRR and Steve G4FYF - by one place.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOT
M0CGF	310	281	313										904
G4FFY	211	215	252										678
G4LZE	179	177	239										595
G3ZPB	20	136	77										233
G3EUE	15	60	80										155
G3WRR	21	66	62										149
G4FYF	40	36	36										112
G3SRC	48	21											69
M0LEP	22	14	12										48

Sunspot cycle 25 continues to tease us, with quite wild swings of SFI from day to day but no evidence of an underlying upward trend. They do say that good things (eventually) come to those who wait – so we must continue to wait and see!

73, Quin G3WRR (SRCC Leaguemeister)

SRCC NETS

The following is a list of structured nets on which members of SRCC meet regularly. They are sometimes joined by members of other local clubs, who are always made most welcome. The net is not usually led by a nominated controller, but stations normally transmit cyclically in the chronological order in which they sign in. If any member wishes further occasions and frequencies to be added to the table, please let me know at q.g.collier@btinternet.com.

BAND/FREQUENCY/MODE	DAY OF WEEK	START TIME (clock)
160m / 1905 kHz / LSB	Sunday	9.30 am
80m / 3710 kHz (+/- QRM) / LSB	Monday	9.00 am
10m / 28.078 MHz / JS8	Wednesday	10.00 am
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 free – and let's look forward to the real prospect of meeting up face to face as soon as early July!

73, Quin G3WRR