



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

86th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

JUNE 2021 – No 946

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

General Club Business:	secretary@srcc.uk	Honorary Secretary & Editor
Membership/Treasurer:	membership@srcc.uk	Quin Collier G3WRR
Newsletter articles/distribution:	newsletter@srcc.uk	19 Grangecliffe Gardens, LONDON, SE25 6SY
Club Equipment Loan:	equipment@srcc.uk	Tel: 020 8653 6948
Club Website:	https://www.srcc.uk	

As we (hopefully) approach the end of lockdown, we now have a tentative timescale for returning to face-to-face meetings at Trinity School. This is reflected in the Future Meetings section (below). However as we all know, things in the COVID world can change – so for the most up to date information, please keep an eye on the SRCC website at <https://www.srcc.uk>

SRCC COMMITTEE 2021/22

Chairman	Vacant	
Acting Chairman for June	G3MCX John Kennedy	020 8688 3322
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 June 2021 SRCC Newsletter.

The funeral of our good friend and fellow SRCC member John Simkins G8IYS took place at Croydon Crematorium on May 13th, as notified in last month's Newsletter. Owing to the lockdown driven constraints on the number of attendees at funerals, not all our members who would have wished to attend were able to do so. However, SRCC was represented by John G3MCX, Peter G3ZPB, Maurice G4DDY, Ray G4FFY and myself. Those who were not able to attend had the opportunity to watch the funeral "broadcast" on the internet – an interesting example of how the internet is changing our lives in a way that had probably not been anticipated. I know of at least one member who took up that opportunity. It was a Humanist funeral in accordance with John's wishes – for those unfamiliar with the concept, it works in a manner very similar to the more traditional crematorium funeral but without the religious component – instead of a "man (/lady) of the cloth" officiating we had a charming lady from the Humanist Society, and instead of hymns, music from Fairport Convention in accordance with John's love of folk music. There were also three eulogies from John's son Gareth, a former BT workmate whose name escapes me, and last but definitely not least myself to cover off the amateur radio aspects. All in all, a dignified and, although one cannot say "enjoyable" it is appropriate to say "satisfying", experience.

Looking at the other end of human lifespan, I have taken the opportunity to visit my new three-week old granddaughter Summer Mae Malcolmson. This was part of a three stage Round Robin in which I first visited Dave G3TBK near Grantham to pick up some antenna hardware. Dave and his crew have alas reached the point where they no longer feel able to support HF (CW) NFD and have very generously donated their mastage to our little CW FD team (aka. Flying Ducks Contest Group) comprising Alun G4WGE (fellow SRCC member and RSGB DR101), John G4CZB and myself. John is ex-Purley Club like myself and formerly - half a century ago - resident at the parental home in Hartley Down Purley, making him at the time a close neighbour of SRCC member Ted G3EUE. Dave, his son Alistair M3DVQ and wife Moira showed me how to set up the mastage. Moira, being married to one amateur and mother to a further two (M0TBK and M3DVQ) was clearly used to Field Day stuff, and kept the exercise under control by giving us prompt and entirely correct instructions on who should pull which rope when and by how much. I'm not sure the antenna-upping tutorial was really necessary, but it was appreciated anyway.

Thence on to Nottingham to see Elanor, her husband Stuart and Summer. At three weeks, nearly all that babies of that age seem to do is sleep, eat, poo and yell – but it is still a very pleasant sensation to hold one ...rather the same feeling one gets from having a cat sleeping on your lap (although dogophiles may disagree with that view)!

Penultimate hop was to Northampton to drop off the antenna stuff at CZB Towers as CW FD was only 3 weeks away (no point in toting it all back to SE25 and back up to the FD site near John's) and finally home – incurring a £27.50 charge for entering the Congestion and Ultra Low Emission zones as a result of getting confuzzled by differing information from my satnav and the road signs!

So onto what you actually came here to read...

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The virtual A meeting on 10th May was a presentation of the RSGB video "The Magic of Six Meters" by Chris G4IFX. This was attended by 17 members and was considered to be very interesting and helpful. Chris very kindly joined us on the Zoom call to answer members' questions, which resulted in the following:

- *Is the "Propquest" utility useful on 6m?* Chris said that he keeps it open in his browser

all the time but noted that it is still under development

- *What beacons are available?* There are a number of 6m beacons, but the situation is fluid and Chris recommended looking on the RSGB website at <https://www.microwavers.org/indexb.htm>
- *What about band planning?* The RSGB website at https://rsgb.services/public/bandplans/html/rsgb_band_plan_2021.htm is a useful source of information, but in summary:
 - 50.100 – 50.130 MHz – International DX
 - 50.130 – 50.250 MHz - General SSB / CW traffic
 - 50.150 MHz - Centre of Activity (similar to former “Calling Channel”)
- *Is the usual early summer period the only peak in sporadic E activity?* No, there is another, less pronounced, peak between mid-December and mid-January
- *Is it true that the Elecraft K3 is deaf on 6m?* Opinions vary on this, but some users choose to use a preamp
- *Given that noise performance of antennas may be more important than the last fraction of a dB of gain, what antennas are recommended?* Chris said that he used LFA Open-Source designs and found these good. Also, magnetic loops can be helpful for noise reduction.

The virtual B meeting on 24th May was the familiar Zoom based Round Robin and was attended by fifteen members. A number of topics were discussed.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The June A meeting (on 7th) will be a Zoom based introduction to the nanoVNA vector network analyser (currently owned by a number of SRCC members) given by Quin G3WRR. This will focus on how to use it for amateur radio applications rather than a detailed analysis of how it works. Quin notes that as the date is one day after HF CW NFD, there is a risk of him falling asleep during the presentation, and attendees are to be understanding (and to wake him up...).

The June B meeting (on 21st) - and all being well the last before meetings at Trinity resume - will be the traditional Zoom based Round Robin.

On the basis of current plans, the 5th July A meeting will be a Construction Contest to allow members to show us what they have been working on – and for the items voted best, to receive a small monetary reward! In the (we believe unlikely) event that access to Trinity is not available on that date, a Video Evening will be held. So, keep an eye on the website for latest news!

Likewise, it is intended that the July B meeting (19th) will see the return of the Chat and Fix It sessions at Trinity.

The August A meeting will be a variation on the traditional Barbecue in that although it will be held at Peter ZPB's QTH in Old Coulsdon it will instead be a Cornish Pastie session and will be held on the afternoon of Sunday August 1st. Further details will be supplied in due course.

CHAIRMAN'S BLOG

Just a few words from your acting Chairman for June who has not been very active lately. Main interest HF CW and then mostly short contests. I obtained my licence in 1958 on an

exemption from taking a test having done my National Service after training, in a GCHQ outstation in Hong Kong. Back in those days everyone had to do CW only for a year to begin with, my first QSOs were made from the Club Station at Little Sai Wan, operating from VS6DV. Having never wanted to use high power, it was important to have a good antenna and listen carefully. When chasing a DX station everyone calls at once, then they all stop together, there will be a small gap in between, just slip your callsign into this and quite often you will be the only one heard and get the call back.

As some older members will remember the SRCC used to run two HF NFD stations, each covering three bands. These were run by two late members, the 'A' station by John (Nobby), G3BFP and the 'B' by Ron G6LX. In the 80s, Ron wanted to try a single band entry on 20m so between us we made up three W8JK antennas in the garden. Number 1 was tested on the 24th. April 1988, Ron made the first contact with UL7CX. All three were finished and tested by 29th. May ready for NFD. On NFD they were end fed to cover all needed directions but could be centre fed. They need about 114 feet between the poles and are basically two parallel wires 9' 6" apart separated by bamboo poles at each end. The wires cross over either side of the centre at 26 & 22 feet. During the five weeks they were in the garden I did make quite a few DX QSOs including Peter ZL3GQ who said I sounded like a local. On the third day Ron worked a pirate, 3A2EM, Ron sent we have 3A2AY in the shack and he does not know you, 3A2EM vanished! These three antennas have been wound up in my garage ever since, I could never use more than one, it would be a shame to dump them.

One of my early challenges that I missed when all the counties changed was WABC, Worked All British Counties on Top Band, managed 75 out of 97 while we lived in Orpington, started again in Croydon then the Counties changed and many disappeared altogether.

On my last trip to Martin Lynch for a couple of reels of Mastrant to replace guys, did also get 15m of coax to connect up to a co-linear 35' up in the roof space to get the FT 817 going on VHF. Most Nets are either at mealtimes or clash with other domestic activities, but I do listen sometimes with the Whip or on Top Band on Sunday on the FT101ZD.

73, John G3MCX

SPECIAL EVENT STATION GB2KM MILLS ON THE AIR 2021

On Sunday 9th May we held special event station GB2KM with CPREC club with help from BDARS members and local hams. Being a Mill, it was on a hill, so we were 450 foot above sea level. This was the 25th year of the Mills on the Air event. We worked nine other Mills during the event at Keston.

Due to the covid restrictions CPREC club equipment was unavailable for us so I asked John G8MNY if he would be interested in helping run the event using his equipment. Of course, John G8MNY was a star as always and bought along his station which enabled us to run the event and get out for the first time in nearly two years for us all.

We would like to say a big thank you to the following people who without their help and hard work this event would not have been possible: -

- Jim M0JKM for arranging and asking his friends who own the mill Elizabeth and husband Phillip if we could operate from just outside the Mill.
- Elizabeth, Phillip and her family who went above and beyond to make this event possible (so thank you very much)



GB2KM in operation

We had a 2m station on one table and HF station on another. We made 56 contacts on 2m with Martin G7WIR operating the 2m station. We also had 95 contacts on HF with Jim M0JKM, John G8MNY and myself (Steve M0PEL) operating.

Also, Bob G3OOU and Andy G4ADM were there during the day to keep an eye on events. It was the perfect day weather-wise which always helps when operating outside (Covid rules). The 2m station was a Kenwood mobile radio running 35w to a 27-foot mast on the side of John's van with a 7/8 wave mobile antenna on the top. The HF station was a Icom IC735 which I used on my Foundation course for the first time with a Transworld T500 amp built in 1977 giving us 400W and a G5RV antenna at about 40 feet.

Special thanks to Damien 2E0EUI who set up both the QRZ and EQSL pages for GB2KM but was unable to attend after putting his back out. On the day we had over 300 look ups on QRZ, and a great day was had by all.

So, if you would like to get outdoors and operate this year give it a go – heaven knows we must all be looking forward to getting out and about now the lock down is coming to an end. We will be at Wimbledon Club Summer camp for 8 days at the end of July (road map permitting) and all are welcome. So why not come along for the day or even longer during the week?



Keston Mill



Martin G7WIR, Steve M0PEL and Jim M0JKM



Tony 2E0TSA and his portable setup



Tony 2E0TSA's ICOM 7100

HERE AND THERE

A couple of items this month:

- thanks to Kim G6JXA for forwarding me this link, which is a recording made in Manchester of GX3SRC being operated by Steve M0PEL from an SRCC meeting – interesting!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQoG_JG5M4s
- thanks also to Mike M1CCF for the following link which should certainly interest those like myself who are interested in the history of our hobby and radio in general. I haven't watched all of it yet – it runs for just over 38 minutes – but have made a few dips in to get the flavour and will definitely make time to see it in a single run when things settle down a bit at WRR Towers! <http://w1tp.com/temp/WeingartenPererawithRadioRow081420.mp4>

73, Quin G3WRR

OFCOM AND EMF

You may recall an item by Peter G3ZPB in the April Newsletter about Ofcom's proposed changes to amateur (and other) radio licences regarding EMF. (No, we are not talking about the **ElectroMotive Force** we learnt about in physics at school – this one is **ElectroMagnetic Fields**!). Things have moved on since April and, following a few changes since then, new licence conditions relating to EMF have come into force. If you hold an amateur licence, you will have received a communication from Ofcom about this around 20th May. Unlike some of the other missives we receive from Ofcom, this one cannot simply be put in the bin (electronic or physical) and will require action. This involves being able to demonstrate your ability to conform to international EMF regulations. Although action is not urgent – the need to demonstrate conformance applies in three frequency dependent phases between 18/11/21 and 18/11/22 – we all need to be ready.

The SRCC Committee is proposing to hold a meeting to explain to the members what is involved, and subject to confirmation, this will be the A meeting on 6th September. But for now it would be useful to have a look at three Ofcom documents:

Introduction - <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/emf>

How to demonstrate compliance - <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/emf/compliance-and-enforcement-guidance>

EMF calculator - <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/emf/calculator>

The third of these looks like a very useful tool but is understood to be subject to further change before a definitive version is available.

73, Quin G3WRR

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – APRIL 2021

There were eight entries for the April 2021 League Table, the same number as in March, and all from the “usual suspects”. There was only one change of positions compared with March – but a very significant one. Ray G4FFY has pulled ahead of Ian M0CGF – the first time since February that Ian has not led the table - and by just four points! This month's listing is shown below:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	87	8	34	224
M0CGF	101	3	12	220
G4LZE	75	3	20	198
G3EUE	47		3	97
G3ZPB	26	4	20	74
G3WRR	9	3	9	33
G4FYF	13	2		28
M0LEP	8	1		18

All Ray's scoring contacts were made using data modes, 64% FT8 and 36% FT4 - the latter being in the RSGB FT4 contest. As might be expected at this stage of the sunspot cycle, the most productive bands were 20m and 40m (45% and 29% respectively), followed by 80m (11%), 30m (6%), 17m (5%) and 15m (2%). He managed all continents except Antarctica, with Europe predictably dominant at 60% followed by Asia (16%), South America (9%), Africa and North America (7%), and Oceania (1%) from a single contact with YB (Indonesia). He notes that he worked HP (Panama) for a new DXCC. All but two of his ten scoring VHF contacts (in 5 DXCC entities) were made using FT8.

Ian's scoring activity was fairly evenly balanced between FT8 (53%) and SSB (45%) with the remaining 2% on 6m meteor scatter using MSK144. Most of his scoring contacts were on HF, with 20m favourite at 41% followed by 40m (18%), 80m (10%) and the remaining 5% on 15m & 10m. Around 20% were on VHF, split between 6m & 4m on a roughly 2:1 basis. He too managed scoring contacts with all continents except Antarctica, with Europe predictably top at 67% followed by Africa and North America (9%), Asia (8%), South America (6%) and Oceania (3%). He found the bands odd but noted that with the clocks going back, the Americas were coming through quite late on 20m & 17m – and he also managed to pick up 4 ZSs (South Africa) and D4 Cape Verde Islands on SSB during a mobile session from Woldingham!

Colin described April as an "OK month" but hoped for better things in May. All his contacts were made using data modes, FT8 being dominant at 64%, FT4 at 28% and good old RTTY at 8%. 72% of his HF contacts were on 40m, 25% on 20m and 3% on 80m. Like Ray & Ian, he worked all continents except Antarctica and the majority of his scoring contacts were with Europe (65%). This was followed by Asia (13%), North America (10%), Africa (7%), South America (3%) and Oceania (1%).

Ted's contacts were as usual all on CW, using all the bands between 80m and 15m. He notes that the majority were in the first part of the month after which he could find little new to work. Interesting contacts were with OX (Greenland) and Z6 (Kosovo) for a new DXCC – but he had a number of interesting gotaways including TZ (Mali) and 5A (Libya): it's good to see a bit of activity from some of the rarer parts of Africa in this post-colonial world!

Peter's contacts were mainly on HF (bands not stated) and nearly all European and included a new DXCC entity in the form of EA6 (Balearic Islands) plus four SRCC members. He also took part in the HF FT4 contest and has been experimenting with Digital Voice.

Quin's scoring contacts were again rather unexciting, being made in the UKAC contests on 6m & 4m. He also claimed seven SRCC members, contacted during tests to see whether 80m in the mornings was suitable for the proposed 80m net. (We decided it was!). He is hoping for a better

showing next month as he intends to have a go in the CQ WW WPX contest in the last weekend of May to help him tune up his keying fingers for CW NFD the following weekend....

Most of Steve's scoring contacts, which he described as "nothing special", were on 40m & 20m, but he also worked two SRCC members on the 80m net.

Rick's available time for amateur radio has been limited due to the need to get his news garden under control, but he nevertheless managed to contact a number of SOTA stations, including one in TF (Iceland) - a rare location for SOTA activity.

Here is the cumulative list for the year so far:

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOT
M0CGF	310	281	313	220									1124
G4FFY	211	215	252	224									902
G4LZE	179	177	239	180									775
G3ZPB	20	136	77	74									307
G3EUE	15	60	80	97									252
G3WRR	21	66	62	33									182
G4FYF	40	36	36	28									140
G3SRC	48	21											69
M0LEP	22	14	12	18									66

Despite quite significant fluctuations in solar activity on a day-to-day basis, there's still no sign of a consistent upswing in cycle 25, although it is possible to persuade oneself that activity on the higher bands is slowly improving. But on the other hand, the sporadic E season seems to have got going quite early this year so at least we should have a bit of excitement to look forward to over the next month or two!

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 / 3710kHz / 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.....

Not much to add, other than to hope that you remain well and COVID free – but it will be seriously good to see you again face to face in early July!

73, Quin G3WRR
SRCC Newsletter Editor