



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

87th Anniversary Year - Founded 1935

MARCH 2022 – No 955

SRCC supports the RSGB Child Protection Policy

General Club Business: [secretary@srcc.uk](mailto:secretary@srcc.uk)  
 Membership/Treasurer: [membership@srcc.uk](mailto:membership@srcc.uk)  
 Newsletter articles/distribution: [newsletter@srcc.uk](mailto:newsletter@srcc.uk)  
 Club Equipment Loan: [equipment@srcc.uk](mailto:equipment@srcc.uk)  
 Club Website: <https://www.srcc.uk>

Honorary Secretary & Editor  
 Quin Collier G3WRR  
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 LONDON,  
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MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm  
**Meetings at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon CR9 7AT**

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**1<sup>st</sup> MEETING Monday 7 March: Special Equipment Sale – part 2**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING Monday 21 March: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY**

## SRCC COMMITTEE 2021/22

Chairman	Vacant	
Acting Chairman for March	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 March 2022 issue of the SRCC Newsletter. This will be rather briefer than usual because of the need to get the AGM Calling Notice out in a timely manner – and also due to some `domestic pressures here at Mission Control Norwood!

I'm sure we are all glad to see that the COVID driven restrictions have been withdrawn, allowing us to return to our pre-COVID lives – although it will probably turn out that certain aspects have changed for ever.

On a darker note, it is very disturbing to see the escalation of the Russia / Ukraine border dispute into open war. As amateur radio is (rightly) supposed to be a non-political activity, I will not comment further on the political aspects – but however you look at it, the human suffering involved is already severe and will no doubt get worse: and it is sad to see (but probably inevitable) that amateur radio in the Ukraine has been suspended (initially for a month). Let's hope it's all over soon.

And now on to the interesting stuff.....

**73, Quin G3WRR Newsletter Editor**

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The February A meeting (on the 7<sup>th</sup>) was a talk by Pat G4FDN entitled “Holidaying in Ireland with radio in 2020 & 21”. This succeeded in being interesting, informative and instructive all in one. Pat described his 2020 and 2021 trips to both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and covered how he and his family fitted together the holiday aspects with doing some radio operating in the two countries. He explained some of the logistics of picking locations, organising the trip and setting up successful stations efficiently. This really deserves a proper write-up which will be provided in next month's Newsletter – but for now here are a couple of pictures to show the flavour....



**SHEEP DIPPING DAY - AUGUST 2021**

**ANTENNA – BALLYCASTLE, COUNTY MAYO**



The B meeting (21<sup>st</sup>) was the usual Fix It, Move it on and social chat session, with John G8MNY and all his usual array of test gear. Those present also took the opportunity to discuss the problem of the lack of a full time SRCC Chairman. A number of ideas came up and are being followed through in advance of the AGM in April – see below....

## FUTURE MEETINGS

The March A meeting (7<sup>th</sup>) will be a continuation of the January sale of equipment that belonged to John G8IYS SK. Time did not permit all the items to be offered then, so the March meeting will be used to make the outstanding gear available to members. If time permits items from the SRCC stock will also be offered.

Inevitably not all the items on offer will be sold, so three tables have been booked by SRCC at the exotically named “Hamzilla Radio Festival and Electronics Fair” at Sandwich in Kent on 13<sup>th</sup> March, where the SRCC team (Ray G4FFY, Colin G4LZE, Pat G4FDN and Andrew G4ADM) will be assisted by John’s son Gareth. The pictures below show some of the items that will be going to one, the other, or both events!



The April A meeting (4<sup>th</sup> April) will be the Annual General Meeting. While this may seem a rather dry topic, it is an important meeting for the club. Amongst other things it is the key opportunity for members to have their say about how the club was for them in the previous year – and to have their say about the future: please give the latter some thought and tell us what you think – either in advance or on the night. The Calling Notice and nomination forms for Committee members and Secretary is attached at the rear of this issue.

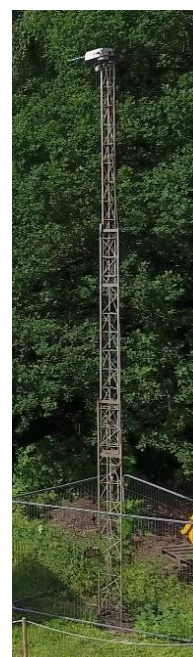
The May A meeting (9<sup>th</sup> of the month) will be a return visit – “in the flesh” this time following his previous Zoom presentation – from Chris Deacon G4IFX from the UK Six Meter Group (UKSMG) who will be telling us more about the 6m band and how to use it. This fits nicely with the start of the annual 6m sporadic E season, which is a good opportunity to pick up some interesting DX and is well suited for FT8 operation. I was talking to Peter Hart G3SJX today (on the phone – not via radio ...heaven forbid) and he mentioned that he had worked about 150 DXCCs on the band.



## MEMBERS' ADS

### 30ft 3-section Lattice Mast.

This "standard" 3-section lattice mast is currently situated at Brooklands Museum and needs collecting from there. In its stowed state it is 13ft long and the base section is welded to a 2ft x 2ft base plate. Being a steel mast, it is very heavy but help can probably be made available to assist in loading. First reasonable offer secures. Contact Peter G3ZPB for further details.



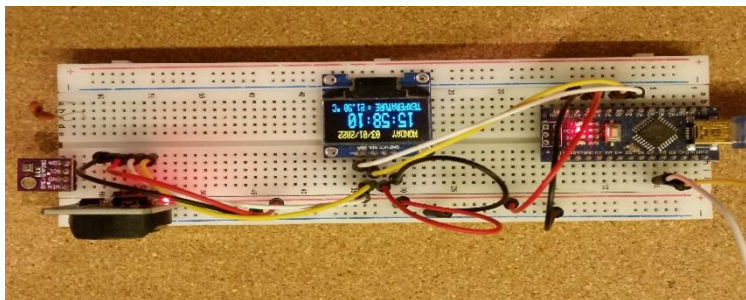
### Pioneer Audio/Video Multi-channel Receiver Home Theatre System, together with Sony Sub-Woofer and 5 Sony surround speakers.



Complete with remote control, Operating Instructions and some connectors (the absent connectors are still under the carpet!). Contact Peter G7PWV

## ANOTHER LOCKDOWN PROJECT – by Steve G4FYF

I have seen OLED (organic light-emitting diode) displays used in projects so got a 0.96" 128×64 pixel module some time ago. Had no idea how to drive/control these things so, using an Arduino Nano, I tried several published example graphics/text sketch codes [programs] to understand the commands that makes this thing dance and see what effect my 'tweaks' to the code makes on the display. After a while, sorta got comfortable with that.



So what can I usefully use it for now? In my box of bits I found a Real Time Clock (RTC) module. This is a very accurate clock with on-board temperature monitor. Properly programmed, it will return time, date and temperature data. The on-board CR2032 battery keeps it up to speed should the external power supply be removed thereby returning current time/temperature data upon next power-up. My testbed was on a breadboard where I played with the code to get an acceptable format on the OLED display using I2C protocol.

## HERE AND THERE

During the very strong winds recently, I was wondering how best to protect my yagi antennas up on the rotator. I use the program "PST Rotator" to rotate then when operating. Then I remembered a never-used and probably little-known feature "Point to wind". It knows my location because it requires the Maidenhead Locator when it is installed. All you have to do is set the wind speed at which you want the antennas rotated "into wind", click on the "activate" icon and leave it to do its stuff. There are a couple of weather websites it can be set to, and it gets wind information from there. As soon as the predicted wind speed exceeds the limit you entered, it automatically steers the antennas into the prevailing wind direction. How brilliant is that? **Peter G3ZPB**

An interesting follow-up on the above (well, it was interesting to start with but it eventually palled a bit) ...a couple of months ago there was a posting on one of the amateur radio reflectors (UK VHF Contesting, I think) in which someone asked whether, when pointing your beam into the wind, you should point the front or the back at it. There were quite a few sincerely (and in some cases stridently) argued cases put forward for one or the other – but I don't think a definite consensus was reached....so I guess you pays your money and takes your choice! **Quin G3WRR**

Last month's Newsletter contained a reference to VE3EN's "Solar Ham" website. Kim G6JXA has identified another related site – this one produced by the UK's Met. Office and entitled "Space Weather" and is available at <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/space-weather> . There is some overlap with the VE3EN site but the focus is slightly different and it's well worth a peruse! **Quin G3WRR**

## SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – JANUARY 2022

The number of entries received for the January 2022 League Table was nine. All were the usual suspects, although two of these were null this month. The monthly listing largely follows the 2021 pattern, with two of the “big three” taking the top positions (but with Ray G4FFY ahead of Ian M0CGF): the third – Colin G4LZE – submitted a null entry this month as did Quin G3WRR.

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	74	4	20	166
M0CGF	50	1		102
G3ZPB	32	2	26	90
G3SRC	22		22	66
G4FYF	17	1		36
G3EUE	11			22
M0LEP	5	4		18
G4LZE				0
G3WRR				0

Time constraints mean that it has not been possible to provide the usual analysis of entrants' scoring contacts this month (the League Table write-up is the most time demanding item in the Newsletter) – but normal service will be resumed next month. Readers will have their own views on whether that is good news or not....

The 2022 cumulative table is shown below – but since this is the first tabulation for the new year, the contents are identical to the monthly listing!

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOT
G4FFY	166												166
M0CGF	102												102
G3ZPB	90												90
G3SRC	66												66
G4FYF	36												36
G3EUE	22												22
M0LEP	18												18
G4LZE	0												0
G3WRR	0												0

It is good to see that the improvement in SFI that was observed towards the end of 2021 has been maintained – the sun is cordially invited to keep up the good work....

And finally, a correction to the final 2021 results table - Alun G4WGE's score for December 2021 is shown as zero and should be two. Far be it from me to steal hard earned points from entrants...

**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](mailto: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 / Digital Voice*	Friday	7.30 pm
2m / 145.35 MHz / FM	Friday	8.00 pm

\* The Friday night Digital Voice net usually starts with D-star.

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.....

In this space last month, I promised an article by Paul G7VAK on loop antennas and number stations. I'm afraid I've had to stand it over till next time because of the need to "hit the streets" with the current Newsletter – so apologies to Paul and the readers...it will be with you soon! So, until next month....

**73, Quin G3WRR**

## FORMAL NOTICE OF THE 82<sup>nd</sup> SRCC AGM FROM HON. SEC. QUIN COLLIER G3WRR

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the SRCC will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. start at Trinity School.

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

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

### Quin Collier G3WRR

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NOMINATION FOR HONORARY SECRETARY - 2022 / 2023

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

I.....wish to nominate.....for  
the position of SRCC **Honorary Secretary** for 2022 - 2023.

I agree to stand and serve if elected.

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

.....  
NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER - 2022 / 2023

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

I.....wish to nominate.....for  
the position of **Committee Member** on the SRCC Committee for 2022 - 2023.

I agree to stand and serve if elected.

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