



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

AUGUST 2023 – No 972

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MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

Meeting at St Paul's URC, Croham Park Avenue, Croydon CR2 7HF

1st MEETING Monday 7 August: On air evening

2nd MEETING Monday 21 August: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

SRCC COMMITTEE 2023/24

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Dear Members & Friends,

Welcome to the August 2023 SRCC Newsletter.

This issue, like July's, will be a bit shorter than usual, as your scribe has recently been caught between several rocks and hard places! With VHF NFD done and dusted, it was down to Cornwall for a few days (see below). Then away from Mission Control Norwood for four days in mid-July on a sort of Round Robin taking in Bedford, Grantham, Nottingham, Bracknell and then home. This was partly on RSGB stuff and partly on family matters. This was followed at the very end of the month by a trip to the Isle of Wight with Alun G4WGE and Mike G3VYI to take part in the RSGB Islands On The Air (IOTA) Contest. After all that I will be ready for a holiday! The good news is that from this coming Friday it's off to Exmouth with my son and his nine-year old daughter for a ten-day break and some relaxation (assuming that "relax" and "nine-year old" are compatible...).

SRCC has now held its last meeting at Trinity – a venue that the club has been using since 4th June 2007 (thanks to Ray G4FFY for this information). But the world moves on and we have now held our first meeting at the new venue of St Pauls Church in South Croydon, and more details are given below in the Previous Meetings item.

So here we go...

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

July A meeting (3rd) This was something a little out of the ordinary run of our meetings. Our Chairman John G3MCX gave a talk on his experiences during National Service as an RAF wireless intercept operator in Hong Kong. An amusing and interesting insight into a world now long gone.

July B meeting (17th) SRCC's first meeting at St Pauls Church took place on 17th July and provided a good opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the new venue – which received general approval from the attendees. In addition to being significantly cheaper than Trinity and not being subject to school holiday related date changes, there is more scope for putting up antennas, as well as there being a separate kitchen to minimise the risk of leaving tea and coffee stains over the meeting area!. If you have any comments or suggestions please let me know.

FUTURE MEETINGS

August A meeting (7th) This has been advertised as an On Air Evening at the new venue. While that will be part of the evening's offering, it will also provide an opportunity to discuss the current Ofcom Consultation on amateur radio, more detail of which is provided below.

September A meeting (4th) This will be a real time display of the RSGB "Tonight At Eight" webinar series. The topic will be "Minos Contest Logging Software" and will be of special interest to SRCC members as the presenter will be our own Peter G3ZPB!

October A meeting (2nd) Surplus Equipment Sale.

Future B meetings Unless notified otherwise these will be held on the third Monday of the month and will be the usual Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat session. August's B meeting will be on the 21st.

VHF NFD 2023

VHF NFD this year took place on the weekend of 1st / 2nd July at our usual site on Warlingham ridge. The weather was mostly kind to us: after rain during set-up on Friday afternoon it was mostly sunny although a high wind made things interesting at times and resulted in damage to the tent housing the 6m/4m station. Operators were G0JOS, G0OLX, G3WRR, G3ZPB, G4FFY, G4WGE, G7PWV and G8MNY with assistance in set-up and take down from G3MCX and

G3WRR's son Guy (who is wisely not interested in the hobby but turns out to help his sad old father). Unfortunately one of our regular supporters, Andy G0KZT from CATS, was unable to make it this year because of a new job.

We again entered the Restricted section (which allows a per band power limit of 100W – except for 50W on 4m – and a single antenna at a maximum height of 10m above ground). The set-up was much as in previous years with the addition of 23cm for the first time in a number of years, facilitated by the availability of the club's IC9700: the new band was deemed a success and will be repeated in future years. Results were as follows:

BAND	CALLSIGN	POSITION	CONTACTS	BEST DX (km)
(OVERALL)		6/14		
6m	G3WRR/P	10/17	53	2165
4m	G3WRR/P	8/14	38	651
2m	G0SAC/P	8/16	153	570
70cm	G3ZPB/P	6/10	54	514
23cm	G3ZPB/P	5/7	8	281

If you are interested in more detail, this are available at <https://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/vhfresults.pl?Contest=VHF%20NFD&year=2023> Our overall result is very similar to that of 2022 (6th out of 13) which is probably the best achievable from a station in this part of the country. Conditions were about average (except for 6m where the Contest Committee had obviously organised a welcome helping of sporadic E which allowed us to make a best DX of just over four times that of 2022). Activity seemed a slightly down this year.

No pictures are to hand at present, but if anybody has any, perhaps you could let me have them and they will be published next time.

73, Quin G3WRR

OFCOM CONSULTATION

Many members will be aware that Ofcom has issued a consultation entitled “Updating the amateur radio licensing framework”. This may seem like a rather dry topic – but its outcome affects us all and how our hobby will change in the future, so it is important that we all pay it some attention. There are a number of relevant documents:

- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2023/making-amateur-radio-licences-fit-for-the-future> which provides an overall scene-setting and high level context
- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-2/updating-amateur-radio-licensing-framework> which describes the consultation framework and how to respond to it
- https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0021/263181/consultation-amateur-radio-review.pdf which is the actual consultation document (all 101 pages of it...) itself.

Your scribe's personal interpretation (based on a very cursory perusal) is that the key issues are:

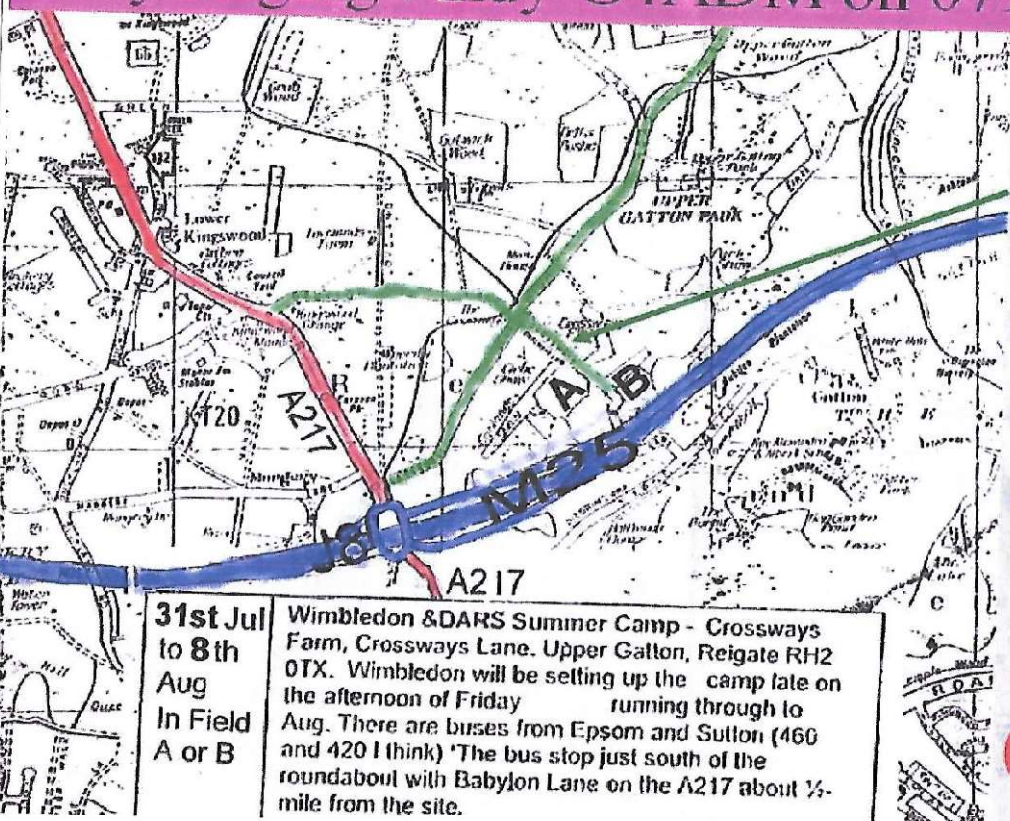
- maintenance of the existing three tier licensing structure and an improved process for licence renewal
- increase in maximum transmit power (for full licences this would go up to 1kW)
- changes to the use of Regional Secondary Locators - RSLs – (e.g., the M in GM and W in GW). This one seems to be causing quite a lot of discussion on various internet “lists” !

The cut-off date for comments to Ofcom is 4th September 2023. It is understood that the RSGB will **not** be submitting a response so it will be down to individual amateurs to have their say. Had time permitted it would have been useful to allocate a dedicated SRCC meeting to discuss the consultation, but that will not be possible. So, without redesignation the August A meeting, it is proposed to allow discussion of the topic to take place in parallel with the scheduled “On Air Evening” – the format should allow the two threads to co-exist.

73, Quin G3WRR

WIMBLEDON CLUB SUMMER CAMP

book your visit, or better still a weeks Pitch
by ringing Andy G4ADM on 07973 184040



Crossways Farm track. With speed bump & night time gate! Leads to A or B Cow Field

31st Jul to 8th Aug In Field A or B

Wimbledon & DARS Summer Camp - Crossways Farm, Crossways Lane, Upper Galton, Reigate RH2 0TX. Wimbledon will be setting up the camp late on the afternoon of Friday running through to Aug. There are buses from Epsom and Sutton (460 and 420 I think) *The bus stop just south of the roundabout with Babylon Lane on the A217 about 1/4 mile from the site.

GX3WIM

With apologies for the slightly skewed map (an update of the one included in last month's issue), just a reminder that the annual Wimbledon Club Summer Camp is under way at present and that visitors are welcome – as contacts with the station(s) will be.

INTO DEEPEST CORNWALL BY QUIN G3WRR

This is not strictly radio but an item with a strong communications theme....

A place I had been meaning to visit for years was the Telegraph Museum at Porthcurno near

Penzance in Cornwall. Apart from the general comms interest, I had inherited three items of elderly (estimated 1910 – 1920) telegraph equipment from Dave Newton G3JJZ who died about a decade ago and I wondered if the museum would be interested in acquiring them. As the journey would be quite a long haul from the Croydon area (just short of 300 miles), this remained on the back burner for years. Then, while meeting up with a long-standing friend (going back to Southampton over 50 years ago) who now lives in Exeter he mentioned that his daughter (usually a bit of a technophobe) had visited the Telegraph Museum (more properly named the Museum of Global Communications) <https://pkporthcurno.com/> and recommended that Nick should do the same. So we cooked up a Cunning Plan in which I would drive down to Exeter and he would drive us both down into the wilds of Cornwall. This we duly did shortly after VHF NFD. The museum is largely housed in the 1904 building that housed the telegraph station itself and also the telegraphist training school: however with the approach of WW2 a highly secure underground bunker was built into which the telegraph station itself was moved: this too is part of the museum.

The whole museum is brilliantly done with clear explanations of the displays and excellent demonstrations: in fact the demonstration of magnetic fields is as good as I have seen anywhere. There is also an on-site amateur radio station (not active when we visited) and associated display of vintage radio equipment which includes:

- AR88 (several)
- RA17
- R107
- BC348
- SX28
- CR150
- BRT 400
- R1155
- Class D wavemeter
- BC221
- and probably others that have slipped my mind.

Those with a stronger cultural focus than mine will no doubt have heard of, and perhaps visited, the highly culturally regarded open air Minack Theatre. This is right on top of the sea cliffs on the other side of Porthcurno Bay from the museum: so, Nick and I scaled the rather exposed path to it – only to find that it was not open to the public owing to preparations for a show that night!

Clearly travelling all the way down to Cornwall for a one-day visit is just not sensible, so we stopped at a static caravan park for three nights allowing us two whole days of being “grockles” to use a local term. In addition to the museum we also visited the Poldhu site where Marconi set up the British end of the first transatlantic radio tests in 1901 (and where the Poldhu Radio Club building is now located). The following day we visited the Geevor Tin Mine which closed in (from memory) 1990 but is now open as a heritage centre. Again, very interesting

On the way back, I am almost sure we passed the QTH of Terry G4CDY. If I had been on my own, I would probably have dropped in on the off chance – but as Nick is not an amateur he might have found himself rather marginalised by the two of us chattering about our hobby. So, we gave it a miss...next time maybe!

The following pictures may give some sense of the trip...



EQUIPMENT DISPLAY IN UNDERGROUND BUNKER



G3WRR RESPECTING LOCAL HEALTH & SAFETY RULES



**HANDOVER OF TELEGRAPH
GEAR TO THE MUSEUM**



CABLE TERMINATION HUT



**MARCONI MEMORIAL AT
POLDHU SITE**



**POLDU RADIO CLUB MEETING
PLACE (on right)**

INTERMEDIATE LICENCE FACE-TO-FACE COURSE PLACES AVAILABLE

The following information has been received from Dave G4NOW, for which many thanks:

“Intermediate Licence Face to Face Course Places available

Surrey Contact Club members

The Cray Valley Radio Society located in Eltham SE9 has two places left on its 3 day face to face Intermediate licence course - booking form [here](https://www.cvrs.org/training/course-application-form).

<https://www.cvrs.org/training/course-application-form>

All day Sats 16/23/30 September cost is £75

Dave G4NOW - CVRS – SET”

I don't know whether of any of our members are thinking of going for an Intermediate licence - but if you are, this may be a good opportunity.

73, Quin G3WRR

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – JUNE 2023

Entries for June were down again to five – possibly due to the holiday period. It would be good to see them come up again when entrants' circumstances change. The monthly listing for June is shown below:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	156	4	42	394
G3ZPB	45	1	44	134
G3WRR	34		34	102
G4FYF	22	2		48
M0LEP	18	2		4

Once again time does not permit the normal analysis of entries but a few snippets, mainly from the entrants themselves, follow

Ray comments ” *June 2023 was also a reasonably “high” activity month especially on the 6m Magic band!! Worked over 100 big squares on VHF – amazing!! Also managed to enter the RSGB HF FT4 monthly contest in June. Some of my FT8 entries are from the Motorhome using my 9m end-fed vertical (on a fibre glass extending pole) with a 9:1 UnUn and the Icom IC-7100. As at end-June 2023 I have now worked 155 DXCC's adding in June: EX2G Kyrgyzstan (20m FT8), OA4JEG Peru (20m FT8), J88IH Saint Vincent (17m FT8)”.*

Peter comments: “*Mainly obtained in the 70cms and HF Data Contests. Only QSOs of note are with OV3T on 70cms!!! (so did a lot of other G stations!!!) and UR3UW in Ukraine on 40m”.*

Quin comments that, thanks to Alun G4WGE, he has finally worked out how to identify operators in multi-operator events. As such he is now able to claim contacts made in NFD and the like! All

his scoring contacts were made in HF NFD and included the six main HF bands. Nothing particularly exciting is included - almost all Europeans plus USA and a sprinkling of nearer Asian DXCCs.

Steve comments: *"A leisurely month RF-wise: 40 & 20 meters with a PY on 10 thrown in".*

Rick comments: *"Almost all SOTA chasing, as usual, and bolstered by at least one weekend when the pollen was so high that I had to stay indoors. Nothing from over the water, unfortunately".*

Looking now at the annual cumulative listing, there has again been no change in entrants' positions this month – but Ray's lead over Peter continues to increase....

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
G4FFY	155	213	95	109	427	394							1393
G3ZPB	43	150	131	94	126	134							678
M0CGF	70	84	109	110	162								535
G4FYF	24	38	100	48	30	48							288
M0LEP	71	40	46	26	44	40							267
G3WRR	63	21		21	32	102							239
G7RUX				74									74
G4LZE	46	12											58
G3EUE	10	10											20

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
6m / 51.55 MHz / FM	Tuesday	8.00 pm
4m / 70.30 MHz / FM	Thursday	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.....

That's all for this month – see you next time!

73, Quin G3WRR, SRCC Newsletter Editor