



# SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

## DECEMBER 2025 – No. 1000

General Club Business: <a href="mailto:secretary@srcc.uk">secretary@srcc.uk</a> Membership/Treasurer: <a href="mailto:membership@srcc.uk">membership@srcc.uk</a> Newsletter articles/distribution: <a href="mailto:newsletter@srcc.uk">newsletter@srcc.uk</a> Club Equipment Loan: <a href="mailto:equipment@srcc.uk">equipment@srcc.uk</a> Club Website: <a href="https://www.srcc.uk">https://www.srcc.uk</a>	Honorary Secretary & Editor: Quin Collier G3WRR 19 Grangecliffe Gardens, LONDON, SE25 6SY Tel: 020 8653 6948
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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 St. Paul's United Reformed Church, Croham Park Avenue,  
Croydon CR2 7HF

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A MEETING Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December: "Show and tell" evening  
 (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Inter Club Quiz at Sutton & Cheam RS)  
 B MEETING Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas Jolly evening

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### EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends, welcome to the December 2025 SRCC Newsletter. As you can see above this is the one thousandth issue! This has to be a creditable achievement by all the previous Newsletter editors over the years, including my immediate predecessor John Simkins G8IYS who handed the job over to me when his health deteriorated in the early 2020s. Long may SRCC and its Newsletter continue and flourish - although it is probable that nobody reading this will be around to read number 2000.....

After last month's report that Roger G1LIW had had a heart attack, it is disturbing to note that another member - Steve G4FYF - is also experiencing health problems. Full details are not included here but his problems relate to the "waterworks department". He has recently spent four days in hospital where his situation has been stabilised and he is now back at home, although he says *"To be honest, I've felt pretty lethargic - most technical effort being switching on kettle or making my porridge! At the moment, gets to 8 o'clock when body tells me to crash out"*. He has to go back into Eastbourne Hospital from 12<sup>th</sup> December (where he expects to be for 4 or 5 days) for *"a procedure [which] doesn't seem very pleasant"*. I'm sure we all wish Steve all the best for a speedy recovery and hope he will keep us posted on progress.

But on a more positive note, Roger G1LIW has emailed as follows:

*“They finally decided to multiple stunt me, rather than open me up, and I'm now recovering at home. I keep oversleeping for the Sunday and Monday nets, much to my annoyance, and I plan to come to one of the meetings as soon as I've managed to fix a problem with the car (cabin/windscreen fan blower failure, probably due to a failed resistor module, and wouldn't you know it, the damn things in a place where only a small child's arms can reach 😞).”* Good news, but please keep us informed Roger.

On the radio front, your scribe has just reminded himself (by reading last month's Newsletter...) that on the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> November the CQ WW CW DX Contest takes place and he will try and spend some time taking part. This is a good opportunity for picking up countries – usually a number of expeditions to rare DXCCs come on – but just how good depends on the state of the sunspot cycle and we have been rather spoilt over the past few years! By the time you read this it will be all done and dusted for this year but if you are interested in DX and/or contests, it's well worth a try in future years. The rules are available at <https://cqww.com/rules.htm>.

So, here we go.....

## 73, Quin G3WRR

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

November A meeting (3<sup>rd</sup>) *“From ORAC to HAL via Polly.”* by Jason G7RUX. 15 members attended this intriguingly named presentation, which was complementary to the RSGB video on digital voice shown at the August A meeting. He stated that digital voice (DV) systems are now in common use on the VHF/UF bands and listed the range of major systems available and some of the characteristics of each. Systems included:

- DStar
- Fusion (Yaesu)
- DMR (which he described as “horrible”)
- NDXN (Yaesu)
- P25
- M17.

Characteristics of the various systems included:

- AMBE
- C4FM
- 4FSK
- QPSK
- GMSK
- MSK
- TDMA (the signals of which can be recognised by a “distinctive choppy rasp”)

These can in general be used in a range of network configurations (generally offering good voice quality) including :

- simplex
- repeater
- internet based repeater
- local hotspot.

The range of available standards can cause problems – (although in many cases workarounds are available, in some cases 3 different radios can be needed at once to overcome interworking problems .




November B meeting (17<sup>th</sup>) *Usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat session.* In addition to the usual chat and test gear activities, once again a selection of items from Dave G3NGK's donations to SRCC, and also some of the residual (now sorted) items from the G7LSL estate, were on offer. The container for voluntary donations to club funds was pleasingly full at the end of the evening.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

December A meeting (1<sup>st</sup>) *"Show and tell" session.* Following a successful trial of this format earlier in the year, we are holding another. This is an opportunity – less formal than a full "A meeting style" presentation or Short Talk Evening - for members to give a brief chat / demonstration (10minutes +/-) on anything they think might interest other members. Advance booking not required!

December 8<sup>th</sup> *Inter-Club Quiz Night* hosted by Sutton & Cheam RS. The venue will be near Banstead at the 7th Banstead Scout HQ (the same venue as last year). The following from S&CRS provides more information:

" We'd love to spread some early festive cheer by inviting your club to join us for a **Christmas Quiz Night**—an evening of fun, friendly competition, and great company.

 **Date:** 8th December  **Time:** 20:00  **Location:** 7th Banstead Scout HQ  
(<https://scrs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Scout-HQ-Location.pdf>)

*To ensure the quiz is fair and enjoyable for all, the questions will not be radio-related—so everyone has a chance to shine! It would be wonderful to have your club take part. **Important Note:** There is no entry fee to participate. Looking forward to a great evening together!*

Best regards,

**Chris Howard, M0TCH Secretary, Sutton and Cheam Radio Society"**

SRCC has attended these Christmas Quizzes for several years (and has hosted a couple of them). They have always been a very enjoyable evening - even if we haven't done stunningly well in the quiz itself! If you are intending to attend please let me know so that I can give Chris an indication of numbers so that he can provision a suitable level of teabags, cocktail sausages and mince pies...

December B meeting (15<sup>th</sup>) *Pre-Christmas Jollity!* Our usual December B meeting format – social chat with sausage rolls, crisps, mince pies and custard, tea, coffee, soft drinks, etc. And possibly even alcohol! Silly hats are voluntary. The Provider In Chief has promised to bring the microwave oven this time.....

January 2026 A meeting (5<sup>th</sup> January) *Short talks evening*

January 2026 B meeting (19<sup>th</sup> January) *Usual "chat and test gear" session*

**Please note that in February, the traditional A & B meeting roles will be reversed to match speaker availability.**

February A meeting (2nd February) Usual “chat and test gear” session  
February B meeting (16th February) “Radio Oddities” by Trevor Brook (G3WVQ). This, which has been arranged by Colin G4WEO, will be the first in a series of occasional club funded “G4CCY/G4DDY Memorial Lectures” by external speakers as discussed at the last AGM.

## 73, Quin G3WRR

## QUESTIONNAIRE

In the next week or so, the Committee will be issuing a questionnaire to all SRCC members, based on an exercise undertaken by West Kent ATS. Filling it in, in whole or in part, will be **totally voluntary**. This isn't a “big brother” type activity – the main aim is to understand more about the membership so that we can optimise SRCC's meeting and activities programme.

## HERE AND THERE

Most readers will be aware of the use of the term SK (for “Silent Key”) to refer to deceased amateurs. I have often wondered where that acronym (as opposed to any other two letter abbreviation) originated. It occurred to me recently that it might be an instance of rather dark telegraphists' humour – the sort of humour that often arises within specialist groups. (According to “The Victorian Internet” – a fascinating book about data communications in the pre-internet world - telegraphists were generally regarded as a bit strange and - in the Wild West at least - had a reputation for preferring to chat to their distant mates using the key rather than talking to real folks nearby – certainly making them a “specialist group”!

SRCC members – particularly CW operators - will be aware of the existence of, and probably use, “prosigns”. These are procedure messages defined in Wikipedia as “*shorthand signals used in Morse code telegraphy, for the purpose of simplifying and standardizing procedural protocols*”. They consist of (usually) two letters in Morse code linked without an inter-letter gap (for example AR *.-.-.* rather than A R *.-.-.*) which represents “end of message”. I recently pondered whether use of the prosign SK *...-.-* (meaning “end of contact” or “frequency no longer in use”) might have been adopted by dark humour among the telegraphic community to additionally refer to “end of life”. I have no proof one way or the other but it seems like an interesting idea. Does anyone else have any knowledge or thoughts about this?

Not related to radio, or even electricity, but perhaps of general interest to engineers & residents of the Croydon area.... I recently revisited the London Museum of Water and Steam at Kew on an Open Day to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This museum – well worth a visit – is near Kew Bridge and is on the site of the former Kew pumping station. It has at least a dozen steam engines, two of which were the original beam engines used for pumping water to the customers. Several of the engines are run from time to time, and on the day of the visit the 90” (referring to the diameter of single piston) beam engine was operational – impressive!. The Croydon connection comes from the pictures on the next page. These shown the engine from Waddon pumping station which was installed in 1910 and continued to pump water until 1983!

Finally, no real relevance - just a bit of sensible advice from Roger G1LIW “Meddle not in the affairs of dragons, for thou art crunchy and good with ketchup!”



**WADDON PUMPING  
STATION ENGINE (1)**



**WADDON PUMPING  
STATION ENGINE (2)**

## SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – OCTOBER 2025

Five entries were received for the October League Table - the same entrants as in September, but a bit of excitement with G4FFY and M0CGF swapping the two top places!

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
G4FFY	70	0	24	164
M0CGF	62	0	34	158
G4FYF	42	1	0	86
M0LEP	5	1	0	12
G3WRR	3	0	3	9

The following notes are provided by the entrants...

**G4FFY:** *My VHF Station is currently dismantled while I do a bit of shack cleaning, etc. So only operated on HF during October including the RSGB HF FT4 Contest. DXCC's worked has increased by three to 172 with the working of Madagascar on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 – 5R8IC on 10m FT4; Somalia on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2025 – 6O3T on 15m FT8; and San Andres Island on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2025 – 5K0UA on 15m FT8 and 17m FT8.*

**M0CGF:** *Had a go in the 1.8MHz Club Calls as played with my 160m antenna a little and it seems to get out a bit better, but it's still naff! 6m antenna is down, the coupler gave up in the recent storm and haven't put it back up yet. Had a go in CQWW SSB. Tweaked my back so haven't gone to Greenland yet, waiting MRI scan next week, so lets see if I make it....*

**G4FYF:** *During the latter part of October the higher HF bands appeared very lively. My highlights where Japan and Thailand. Majority of contacts made on bands 14 MHz and above.*

**M0LEP:** *Yet another busy month for us, with over a week spent in Germany seeing friends (and getting no time even for a quick SOTA activation). But for one very short session of SOTA chasing, with three contacts in ten minutes adding DL, HB and S5 to my log, it would all have been down to the SRCC Monday morning Net and a few post-GB2CW call-ins. I did spent a few days during the month chasing down a problem with my long wire antenna, an exercise which involved: 1) removing a common-mode choke that had filled up with water, 2) replacing 12 metres of buried RG-213 that had damp braid, 3) checking the insides of the feed-point ATU and removing the remains of one small bug that had expired between a couple of points where the voltage must have been a bit high at the moment it wandered across, and 4) doing some serious remedial work on the bias-T and soldering in the little box that switches the feed between my hexbeam and my long wire. That last fix took more than one iteration. The solder joint on the relay that was actually just two balls of solder making point contact (or not) was easy to spot and not too tricky to fix. I do find my binocular microscope increasingly helpful for smaller-scale work these days. Finding suitable replacements for the capacitors in the bias-T that gets the DC volts coming from the shack via the first stretch of feeder to the relay and then on to the feed-point ATU, however, required some serious junk box rummaging. The old capacitors had not taken kindly to living in the box outdoors, presumably thanks to temperature extremes and excess humidity. The relay box is now working well again. Thanks to Ofcom's latest change in the rules there has been a flurry of folk changing callsigns. The Thornbury club has seen a few, mostly folk with Intermediate licences changing from the old 2#0\* series to the new M8\* and M9\* series to get the suffixes they wanted. There's been a lot of changing among SOTA operators, though, with quite a few M0\* holders swapping their calls for G\* ones. It's been quite "interesting" trying to keep track.*

*Has there been any such shuffling among the SRCC membership? Can't say I've noticed any, but MemberMojo is much less helpful in that matter than it used to be.*

**G3WRR:** *An inauspicious return to active participation in the league table - one country and two big squares in the 6m UKAC using my HF inverted L..... attempts to put the 6m/4m back up single handed were an inglorious failure*

The cumulative annual results are shown below – as might be expected at this stage in the year, there has been no change in cumulative positions in the past month.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
M0CGF	146	223	128	286	360	513	376	292	203	158			2734
G4FFY	138	165	164	133	148	194	257	169	115	164			1547
G4FYF	40	22	68	24	26	36	66	66	54	86			488
G3WRR	30		68		24		150			9			281
M0LEP	6	30	4	30	6	12	22	22	18	12			162

The bounce back in the Solar Flux Index over the last few months has levelled out but the current SFI is close to the predicted value, and Ray and Steve took advantage of this to pick up some good DX. The results from this weekend's CQWW CW contest should give us a good indication of whether that will be maintained!

### 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 atocal .

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.....**

Slightly short commons this month, but Bob G300U from the Crystal Palace Club has kindly promised to let us have further occasional inputs for the Newsletter (many thanks Bob) but any inputs from our membership continue to be welcome!

Until next time, all the best.

**73, Quin G3WRR**  
**SRCC Secretary and Newsletter Editor**