



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

FEBRUARY 2026 – No. 1002

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: Quin Collier G3WRR 19 Grangecliffe Gardens, LONDON, SE25 6SY Tel: 020 8653 6948
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MONTHLY MEETINGS NORMALLY ON 1ST AND 3RD MONDAYS 7.30 FOR 7.45pm

Meetings at St. Paul's United Reformed Church, Croham Park Avenue,
Croydon CR2 7HF

1st MEETING Monday 2nd February 2026: Fix-it, Move-it-on & Social Chat with John G8MNY
 2nd MEETING Monday 14th February 2026: "Radio Oddities" by Trevor G3WBQ

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EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends,

I hope you are all settling into the New Year comfortably despite the miserable weather we have been getting!

While writing this I have received an email from Steve G4FYF who reports as follows: *"After 4 days in hospital and 2 operations, came home Wednesday. Upshot is I have currently non-aggressive prostate cancer, treatable with hormone therapy. Will be having regular trips to hospital and GP for a few weeks followed by, hopefully, last bit of surgery. Still feeling lethargic and back starts to ache if move about too much"*. Fingers and thumbs crossed from all of us for a successful resolution Steve.

Another bit of disturbing information on the health front is that Caroline (Ray G4FFY's wife), who has been poorly for some time, has been diagnosed with leukemia. As is usually the case with the NHS, once diagnosed treatment has followed rapidly and Caroline is now in Kings College Hospital in London. She has successfully completed the first round of chemotherapy and is in good spirits but is still in Kings pending the second round rather than being released home. This is

because her red cell count is very low which renders her liable to infection. I'm sure we all wish her all the best for a timely recovery.

At the SRCC meeting on January 2nd we had a visit from a youngster named Martin who was potentially interested in joining us. It was clear at the time that there was a very limited level of understanding amongst many of those present regarding the requirements for "safeguarding" individuals of that age (and other potentially vulnerable groups) - and the practical consequences of those requirements. Following a telephone discussion with the RSGB's "Safeguarding supremo", Jason G7RUX produced a paper summarising the actions that appeared necessary by SRCC and its membership. This has been circulated by email to the membership. In order to clarify and reinforce the content, a short presentation and discussion will take place at the 2nd February meeting to provide those present with an understanding of what is to be expected from the SRCC members and to identify any necessary changes to the SRCC rules.

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

January 2026 A meeting (5th January) Short talks evening. Four short talks were made:

- John G3MCX on his National Service in the Far East in the 1950s
- Jason G7RUX on stub filters
- John G8MNY on putting halyards over trees and other high objects
- Quin G3WRR repeat of part of his previous talk on "How not to win NFD".

January 2026 B meeting (19th January) Usual "chat and test gear" session

FUTURE MEETINGS

Please note that the traditional first and second meetings in February will be reversed to match speaker availability. In other words the first meeting (February 2nd) will fulfil the traditional B meeting chat and test gear role and the second meeting (February 16th) the formal A meeting role.

February 1st meeting (2nd February) Usual "chat and test gear" session. This will include the brief presentation on the requirements (for SRCC as a club and its members as individuals) for Safeguarding of younger and vulnerable meeting attendees referred to above.

February 2nd meeting (16th February) "Radio Oddities" by Trevor Brook (G3WBQ). 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.

March A meeting (2nd March) Surplus Equipment Sale. Your opportunity to bring along items of previously used gear and turn them into money – which can then be used to acquire gear previously used by other club members....

March B meeting (16th March) Usual "chat and test gear" session.

April A meeting (13th April) Annual General Meeting. **Please note** that this meeting will take place on the third Monday of the month rather than the second to avoid a clash with the Bank Holiday

April B meeting (20th) Usual “chat and test gear” session. **Please note** that this meeting will take place on the fourth Monday of the month rather than the third to avoid having meetings on two consecutive Mondays!

73, Quin G3WRR

SK EQUIPMENT DONATION TO SRCC

Ray G4FFY was approached recently by the son of an amateur who had recently died at the age of 99. The son (Steve) had wondered if any of his equipment would be of interest to SRCC rather than simply dumping it in a skip – a healthy attitude from folks not directly involved in the hobby! The gear was picked up from Old Coulsdon – quite close to where Peter G3ZPB and John G3BFP used to live. There were five major items Three were fairly modern (1980s+): a Kenwood TS520 HF transceiver, a 12V 30A mains PSU and a professionally built Transmatch ATU. There were also two older items, both receivers - an Eddystone S640 (fifties / early sixties and of the type in use at the first VHF NFD I ever visited in 1966) and a US Army BC312 WW2 receiver on the same family as the BC342 and BC348 which many readers of my generation may remember. Most of them will need attention but some will probably appear at the Surplus Equipment Sale in March.... There were also a couple of small boxes of assorted bits and pieces which will probably appear at B meetings based on the “take what you want and put a contribution in the tin” business model! A couple of pictures follow.

There was one interesting moment while trying out the TS520. It is usually the case that older equipment needs at least a generous donation of switch cleaner to get it working properly. It is also prudent to wind up the mains voltage gradually using a Variac to allow distressed electrolytic capacitors to reform. Failure to do this can result in a bang and clouds of smoke. But overcome with enthusiasm I didn't take my own advice. After a promising non-explosive start with some fairly healthy noises, I tried the inbuilt crystal calibrator. This was followed by a loud squeal and (apparently) cloud of smoke..... But on closer investigation it hadn't been a cloud of smoke at all...it had seemed too granular and the wrong colour anyway. What had happened was that the AGC seemed to be inactive and when I tuned to the calibrator frequency a (non-AGC controlled) audio frequency roared out of the speaker (which sits on top of the rig in the case of the TS520) and the alleged cloud was dust (accumulated over years) forcibly expelled by the overworked speaker diaphragm!

There is a bit of interesting history too. On picking up the gear I was met by Steve and Mark Raffield, the sons of the original owner Ken who had held the call G3CQU (QSL card below) from about 1947 – and his son Mark had held a G4 callsign (possibly G4GKI) but had allowed it to lapse. Ken had served in the army in Italy during the war, having narrowly avoided being sent to Burma which was treated with considerable relief Steve, the elder brother, has a strong interest in the 1912 Titanic disaster and showed me an original sheet from a message pad that had (if I remember this right) been used to record messages from the Carpathia (the ship that rescued the survivors from the Titanic) to another ship or a shore station regarding names of survivors. Wow – that's real communications history!

Many thanks from SRCC to Steve and Mark for some very interesting gear and a very pleasant chat.



80 – 10m TRANSMATCH ATU



**KENWOOD TS520 160 – 10m
SSB/CW TRANSCEIVER**



**EDDYSTONE S640 COMMS
RECEIVER 1.8 – 31MHz
(probably 1950s)**



**US ARMY BC312 RECEIVER –
WW2 VINTAGE : 1.5 – 18MHz**

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – DECEMBER 2025

The number of entries for the December League Table, which has been stable at five for a fair while, is down to two this month. This is largely due to the health issues noted in the Editor's Opener (which, for information, is NOT an implement used for opening cans...). If entries stay at this level it is questionable whether it is worth continuing with the League Table – but let's wait and see, and hope that the health issues improve and the entrants are able to return!

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0LEP	16	3		38
G3WRR	5		5	15

The following notes are provided by the entrants...

M0LEP: *A slightly larger number of SRCC members than usual, all from SRCC Monday Nets. Most of the rest was SOTA chasing as usual, with a lot of it on the last weekend of the year, presumably because folks took the opportunity to get out of the house after Xmas. All the best for the New Year.*

G3WRR: *Apologies – although my November score was correctly recorded, the commentary referred to the wrong contest. In fact it had been the RSGB 160m CW contest 😞 The December score was also unimpressive but **was** for the RSGB Club Calls Contest....*

The cumulative annual results – in fact this month's results are also whole year results -are shown below. Congratulations to Ian M0CGF and Ray G4FFY for gaining first and second positions – and thanks to all who took part for doing so!

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	188		2922
G4FFY	138	165	164	133	148	194	257	169	115	164			1547
G4FYF	40	22	68	24	26	36	66	66	54	86	12		500
G3WRR	30		68		24		150			9	6	15	302
M0LEP	6	30	4	30	6	12	22	22	18	12	26	38	226

The solar flux index continues to seesaw above and below the predicted values and at the time of writing was slightly above forecast.

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.....

Rather short commons again this month – but I have been promised an item by Paul G7VAK for next time. Inputs from our membership of course continue to be welcome...

Until next time, all the best.

73, Quin G3WRR SRCC Secretary and Newsletter Editor