



SURREY RADIO CONTACT CLUB

JULY 2025 – No. 995

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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**

A MEETING Monday 7th July: Construction Contest
B MEETING Monday 21st July: Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat with John G8MNY

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EDITOR'S OPENER

Dear Members & Friends, welcome to the July SRCC Newsletter. This issue is rather shorter than intended owing to a computer crash shortly before completion resulting in the loss of a significant amount of intended content. Fortunately a fair amount was recoverable from an earlier draft but the rest will have to be stood over until the August issue.

Firstly, welcome to George Collier G4STS from Wallington who has recently joined SRCC. We hope he will find his SRCC membership interesting and rewarding. Despite having the same surname, as far as I am aware George and I are not related!

The June / July period is a busy one (possibly the most concentrated of the year) for outdoor radio activities, particularly on the contesting front which is one of your scribe's favourites. HF (CW) NFD took place over the first full weekend in June: A write-up on this is one of the casualties of the computer crash: more detail will be provided next month: for now I will merely note that I was bitten by a mouse!

That will be followed by VHF NFD – which at the date of writing is imminent, being on the weekend of 5th/6th July. SRCC participates as part of North-East Surrey Contest Group from our usual site near Warlingham. Visitors will be welcome and more detail on the location and site

access is provided below. We are hoping for better weather than last year which will long remain in our memories as a low point! And finally at the end of July it's over to the Isle of Wight as usual for Alun G4WGE, Mike G3VYI (and his wife Hilary) and myself for the IOTA (Islands On The Air) Contest.

After that, those involved will probably all be maxed out on contests for a while – but I will be away twice in August, once at the beginning in Exmouth with my son and ten year old granddaughter and the other at the end near Blackpool with daughter and four year old granddaughter. Great fun if you don't weaken but I'm sure I will survive both Jolly Jaunts and come back relaxed!

So, on to the stuff you actually wanted to read....

73, Quin G3WRR

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

June 2025 A meeting (2nd) VHF NFD preparation. The meeting was held a month ahead of VHF NFD to allow time for any banana skins identified to be sorted out! The Addiscombe ARC contingent of NESCAG had been unable to attend but Andy G0KZT was present to represent the CATS interests. The general plan was accepted but considerable discussion took place on the use of computer logging – in particular how to cope with the trade-off between the undoubted advantages of computer logging and the risk of “freezing out” operators who are not able to use it. A potential workaround has been identified and it will be interesting to see how it works in practice. It had been intended that a brief familiarisation exercise on Minos (the most frequently encountered VHF/UHF logging program) would be given but the absence of a necessary adapter meant that this had to be deferred to the B meeting.



June 2025 B meeting (16th) In addition to the usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format the deferred Minos tutorial was given by G3WRR. This created quite a lot of interest – despite the sleeping attendees in this picture,,,

FUTURE MEETINGS

July 2025 A meeting (7th) Construction Contest. Bring along items of equipment you have built and give a brief description (typically 2-3 minutes). This will be followed by a vote (secret ballot, no electoral college, multiple transferable votes etc). Lucky entrants can win a trophy or even money! A couple of points of detail:

- Completed kits are valid entries
- software can be regarded as equipment
- previous entries can be resubmitted provided they have not previously won a prize.

July 2025 B meeting (21st) Usual B meeting Fix-it, Move-it-on and Social Chat format.

NEW RADIO AMATEUR IN FAMILY!

Apologies to Krishnan M0RSK and his daughter Architaa for failing to include the following information in the June Newsletter as promised – but hopefully better late than never... Krishnan reports

“I wanted to let you know that my daughter Architaa is now M7KKR, having done the foundation course at Cray Valley RS on 5 & 12 May 2025 and passed the online exam on 12 May afternoon. It was also CVRS' first online exam.

Architaa did the foundation as her Duke of Edinburgh's Awards skills module. She's been on HF & 4m and been trying out morse code. She's also helped me put up my first proper outdoor HF aerial here, a stacked dipole for 40/20/10. Hope she goes for intermediate”

Krishnan's e-mail also included a picture of Architaa and her fellow examination candidates but for some reason I couldn't get it to copy across – apologies. However a picture of her is shown at this URL: <https://rsgb.org/main/blog/school-zone-stories/2025/07/01/student-gains-foundation-licence/>

Congratulations to Architaa, who attended the 12th May A meeting, and we hope to see her again face to face and on the air.

For information The next intermediate course to be run by the CVRS will be on 13th, 20th and 27th September 2025. Link to include: <https://cvrs.uk/intermediate-license-course/>

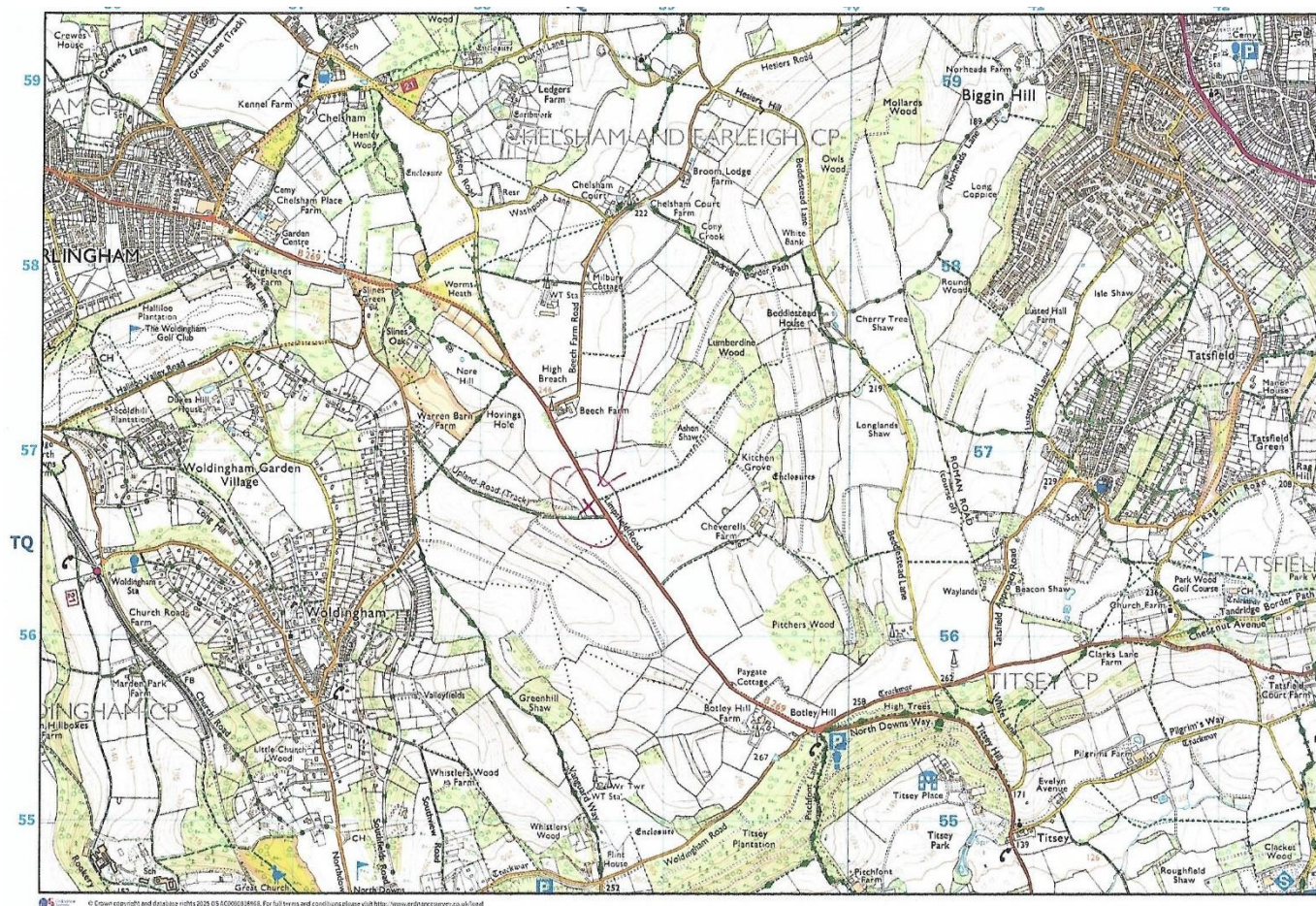
73, Quin G3WRR

VHF NFD – ACCESS TO SITE

As mentioned earlier all members (and friends) are welcome to visit us at the VHF NFD site near Warlingham over this coming weekend of 5th / 6th July (there will also be a presence there on Friday afternoon 4th). For those who like maps the NGR is TQ 388566. For those who don't, the attached map may be helpful – and X marks the spot. If you are coming from the Warlingham direction the entrance is on the right hand side of the road: if you reach the top of Titsey Hill, you have overshot! And conversely of course if you are coming from the Titsey Hill the entrance is on the left hand side, and if you reach Warlingham you've overshot... The entrance is not immediately obvious but you should be able to see tents and masts anyway. For those who have visited the site before, please note that, as you will probably have already seen, we are in the field on the RIGHT hand side of the track rather than the left as in some previous years.

The field will be gated but give me a call on 07480 832125 and I will enter the access code and you can get in. In the unlikely event that you can't contact me, or if the machinery isn't working, there is a way in via the bottom of the hill. Go back towards Warlingham and take the next (I think)

on the left which is Slines Oak Road, follow this down and to the left where it splits - and when you come to Warren Barn Farm on the left, drive through it and up the hill. But please use the top entrance if possible as (a) it's easier and shorter, and (b) the farmer prefers that!



Hope to see you there !

HERE AND THERE

Thanks for a couple of interesting inputs from members following items in the last Newsletter.

The first was from Steve G4FYF following the item on the use CQD and SOS as telegraphic distress signals. Steve says:

"I happened upon my submariner comms chum John today who was aware of CQD. In fact, he related to me that back in the early 1960's whilst in UK southern waters he intercepted a mixed 'CQD' and 'SOS' call. It was from a ship off Isle of Wight suffering damage and some injured crew after hitting rocks in harsh seas wind and heavy fog. They rescued the more seriously injured crew members, attached a rope and got the ship back to nearby port. Seems that by attaching a rope counts as salvage. A few years later he, and he assumes the rest of his shipmates at the time, received £5.00 salvation reward. I love these sorts of tales from bygone ages!

The second was from Roger G8HDP following the note about Paul G7VAK's then forthcoming lecture at Bletchley Park (BP). This reference led Roger to submit the following:

"I was just reading the Newsletter, and noticed the bit about Bletchley Park. I was wondering if it might interest you that one of my Mum's best friends worked there during the war. I went to Bletchley Park a while ago and was surprised to find that you could use a terminal there to look up those that worked there during the war. When I searched for my mum's friend I was surprised when her name came up. A guide was standing beside me and happened to notice what came up on the screen. He instantly asked if I knew this lady, I explained as above, to which he explained that she was a very unusual woman as she worked in departments that were usually mutually exclusive. Do not ask me which departments as I cannot remember. Unfortunately this woman had passed away many years ago, so was unable to find out more"

The free availability nowadays of information regarding BP personnel is very gratifying given the extreme (although essential) level of security applying during the war. One hears repeated tales that security was so strict at the time that threats of death were made if security was breached. These were clearly taken seriously as stories exist of couples who did not know each other during the war but married later went on for some years before revealing that they had both worked at BP!



On the subject of Paul G7VAK's presentation at BP, this apparently went off well and was attended by an audience of 47 individuals. This picture shows Paul in full flow!

SRCC 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

It was stated at the recent A meeting that the previously proposed date for the SRCC 90th Birthday Celebration (11th October) would be changed to Saturday 18th October. It is now confirmed that Saturday 18th October is the date on which it will take place. It will take the form of a "late lunch" with exact time to be agreed but probably 1.30 – 2 pm. It will take place at the Carvery in Mitcham (this is the place at which the post funeral gatherings for Prim and Maurice G4CCY / DDY took place). A dedicated room with access for members with limited mobility has been booked. To assist with the arrangements, can you please let me know numbers and if possible names will be attending. Those who have already notified me need not do so again!

73, Quin G3WRR

SRCC LEAGUE TABLE – MAY 2025 RESULTS

First – correction of an error in last month's results. Ian M0CGF's QSO count for April was recorded as 189 but this should have been 139. The points count and overall results for April are not affected but we might as well get it right - let it never be said that SRCC is responsible for propagation of Fake News.... Five entries were received for May 2025, the same as in April and all from the "usual suspects". The monthly listing is as follows:

ENTRANT	WORKED DXCC / SQUARE	WORKED SRCC MEMBER	WORKED IN CONTEST	POINTS THIS MONTH
M0CGF	190			360
G4FFY	53			148
G4FYF	12	1		26
G3WRR	8		8	24
M0LEP	2	1		6

Steve G4FYF and Quin G3WRR move up one place to fourth and fifth, with Rick M0LEP moving down one place to sixth.

The following notes are provided by the entrants...

M0CGF: *Missed a bit of the month due to Greenland trip but some nice openings on 6m to KP4 and PY. Couple of new DXCC in there as well, Z6 being a nice one.*

G4FFY: *Operating opportunities were down in May 2025 due to the dog agility camping session. On VHF I was only activate in the 2m & 70cm FT8 contests, along with some 6m FT8 during the sporadic E season, though did miss a lot of it!! . On HF I only operated in the May FT4 Contest. DXCC's worked stayed at 167 during MAY.*

G4FYF: *Lightweight log again for May. Found propagation conditions not great. Did have a rare venture to 17 meters where I netted Kosovo.*

G3WRR: *An unimpressive entry based on the 6m & 4m UKACs. Must try harder....*

M0LEP: *It's been unreasonably busy the last month or so, and we were away for a week towards the end of the month, so I barely got on the radio at all! It boils down to a few of the SRCC Monday morning Nets, one or two call-ins after the Thursday morning GB2CW broadcast, and a single solitary SOTA chase...*

The cumulative annual results are as follows: No change in positions since last month.

ENTRANT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
M0CGF	146	223	128	286	360								1143
G4FFY	138	165	164	133	148								748
G4FYF	40	22	68	24	26								180
G3WRR	30		68		24								122
M0LEP	6	30	4	30	6								76

The downturn in HF conditions mentioned last month continues. Last month's comment that "CW FD next weekend will be an interesting test of the effect of *[the falling SFI]* on HF conditions" proved correct. NFD conditions, particularly on 15m & 10m, were well down on the last couple of years. The Solar Ham website (courtesy of VE3EN) – my preferred source of information on "space weather" generally – shows the SFI tumbling alarmingly, being down to only 54% of the SFI just a year ago at the mid-2024 peak of cycle 25. But on the other hand the current sporadic E (Es) season is proving very productive – even being considerate enough to provide an Es opening during the recent 6m Trophy Contest. Dave G3TBK near Grantham reports having made 55 consecutive Es QSOs in the Balkans and surrounding area from a single CQ call! It would be fascinating to know whether this turn-up in Es is related to the downturn in SFI or independent of it. My limited knowledge can't see any reason for a linkage – but perhaps it's time to approach Chris G4IFX who gave SRCC an excellent lecture on sporadic E a year or two ago – and who was recently awarded a PhD on the strength of his work in that field – for a revisit!

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.....

See you next time.

73, Quin G3WRR
SRCC Secretary and Newsletter Editor